



Agawam

Advertiser News

65¢

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Central Library
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"Your Hometown Newspaper"

Volume XXIII Number 50

December 14, 2000

Firefighters & Beautification Comm. Team Up



FEEDING HILLS RESIDENT RICHARD NELSON, a retired employee of the U.S. Postal Service, puts the finishing touches on "Santa's Mailbox," which is currently on display at Springfield's "Bright Nights."

Retired Postal Worker Answers The Call For "Bright Nights"

For the fifth anniversary of the ever-popular "Bright Nights" at Forest Park on Sumner Avenue in Springfield, a new mailbox was needed for "Letters to Santa" inside the "Bright Nights" Gift Shop.

Answering the call, of course, was the U.S. Postal Service and recently-retired postal worker Richard Nelson of Mill St., Feeding Hills was the chief craftsman of the decorative new pipeline to the North Pole.

Nelson retired as a worker at the Post Office's General Mail Facility in Springfield on August 31st. During the summer, he noticed the Postal Service was conducting a contest to build a new mailbox for the "Bright Nights" Gift Shop and after bringing the information home, he and his wife, Linda, conceived his version of the mailbox, which is designated "Letters to Santa." Many other Springfield area postal employees submitted their ideas for the project, but it was Nelson's concept that was selected.

Nelson worked on his idea during a 10-day period in October at a warehouse owned by the Postal Service in downtown Springfield. He figures at least 60 hours were spent crafting the mailbox, which was then brought over to the "Bright Nights" Gift Shop by the Postal Service.

"I think everyone was pleased with the finished product. I have not had the opportunity yet to go over to 'Bright Nights' and see it, but my family is planning to do so very shortly," Nelson told us.

Waiting patiently in the wings to see the spectacular "Bright Nights" display celebrating Dr. Seuss is the Nelson's eight-year-old granddaughter, Jessica Marie. "I think she might even drop her letter to Santa into the mailbox if we get over there before Christmas," said Nelson.



THE AGAWAM CALL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOC. and THE AGAWAM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE recently teamed up to decorate Town Hall for the Christmas season. The firefighters donated the Christmas trees to the town while the Beautification Committee decorated Town Hall with lights and wreaths. The Beautification Committee also decorated the Agawam-West Springfield Bridge. From left in front of Town Hall - Call Firefighter Michael Nicora, Beautification Committee member John Zebryk, Town Councilor (and Beautification Committee member) George Bitzas, and Call Firefighter John Poliwczak. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



ALONG SPRINGFIELD STREET IN FEEDING HILLS, DeCaro Brothers Garden Center always has a huge selection of freshly-cut trees and wreaths. Owner Joseph DeCaro and manager Bill Raymond show off a tree and wreath, respectively. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Middle School Bus Voted 5-2 For Country & Barn Rd. Areas

by Hope E. Murray
Municipal Writer

The School Committee voted 5-2 Tuesday to grant residents of Country and Barn Roads a school bus for Middle School students.

The no votes were cast by members Susan Pettazzoni and Linda Galarneau.

A bus was initially denied by the Transportation Sub-Committee back in August. Several residents appealed the decision and came before the School Committee last month. Their appeals could not be voted on at that time due to a procedural oversight by the sub-committee.

The residents should have received a notice with the denial letter informing them that an appeal must be made in writing according to policy (BEE) before they could come before the School Committee to make another request, but no notice was given.

After being informed of this procedure at a meeting where they thought a vote could be taken, the residents then followed policy (BEE) and requested an appeal in writing.

Brian Moore, a Country Road resident, appealed to the School Committee to pass the request during Citizen's Speak Time.

"I'm asking you to expedite this please, quickly, for the safety of our children," Moore said.

Parebt Colleen Torville also spoke and reiterated points she made at the last meeting. She again described observations she made while at the area of Pajer's Market and Quick Mart at the intersection of

Suffield, Cooper, and Rowley Streets, a major area of concern where the children must cross the street where there are no sidewalks, between 2:30 and 3:00 p.m. last month.

"There were over 1,200 vehicles through the area at that time," she said. "Thirty vehicles went through the red light and others cut through Pajer's Market to avoid the lights."

Residents came to last night's meeting expecting a smooth vote, but another procedural glitch delayed matters.

"I'm not sure how this got under reports because following BEE, we need to have a public hearing," said Transportation Sub-Committee Chairperson Susan Pettazzoni. "That was not posted. However, I would like to offer some kind of solution."

Mrs. Pettazzoni asked the School Committee to vote on a public hearing, then she could orally request that the superintendent make an exception so a vote could be taken that night.

"This is the second time [the residents came before the committee]. I'm prepared to vote on this," said Vice-Chairwoman Rosemary Sandlin.

Mrs. Pettazzoni said she agreed that a vote should be taken, but said that some policy order must be followed.

"We have a policy for a reason," she said. "This is what we govern our schools by."

Other committee members disagreed.

"The thing is," said member Theresa Kozloski, "it's unnecessary at this point because policy BEE has to be changed. It's different than what's in the [Agawam town] charter."

Mrs. Galarneau supported Mrs. Kozloski's information on BEE.

"Mrs. Kozloski is correct about BEE being in conflict with the charter," she said, adding that BEE is not even a policy because it was tabled on Oct. 26, 1999 and was never brought back.

"We have no policy BEE, according to law. And this should have appeared on the agenda as a hearing. My feeling is let's vote on it the best way we can to give these people an answer."

Mrs. Kozloski then made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Sandlin, to grant a bus to the Middle School students in the Country and Barn Roads area with a review at the end of the school year.

"We need to back up people," Mrs. Pettazzoni said. "That motion needs to be made at the right time. I feel strongly that we need to go by BEE."

"I implore this committee to do the procedure correctly and then allow Mrs. Kozloski to make her motion."

She then said she would charter object.

A five minute recess was the requested. When the committee returned, it voted to pass Mrs. Kozloski's motion.

If you visit the Advertiser News' new office at 23 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills (above Remillard Insurance), please note that our main entrance is in the back. Please park on the side of the building and use the back entrance. Thank you...

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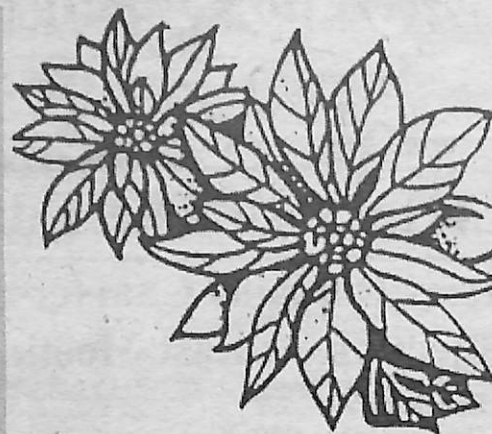
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Letters To The Editor

Bitzas Explains Charter Objection At Last Meeting

To The Editor:
To The President Of The
Council & Council Members:

At our last meeting on Monday, December 4th, I chartered objected the TR2000-44. I did so in order to stop a vote on a resolution that I felt we were being forced to vote on.

We did not have the chance to make any of my proposed amendments or to table it until the policy review committee has a public hearing and then give its recommendation to the full council. The council president formed this policy review committee, of which I am also a member, to review this resolution.

The council also decided to send this resolution to this new committee for review. I also presented some of my amendments in writing to this committee. The committee did not act on this resolution or to my amendments because they wanted to have a public hearing first. They wanted the public's input and I supported that action.

The motion by Councilor Simpson to move the question in the middle of our discussion stopped any further discussion, and stopped any other motion to amend it or table it until the policy review committee had its public hearing. This motion to move the question immediately put this original resolution, without any one of its amendments and without the policy review recommendations, up for a vote.

I do not feel that this was a fair vote. It was not fair for us to vote for a resolution that did not include the proposed amendments and did not yet have the recommendations from the policy review committee that this council had itself requested.

At our next council meeting, by law, we will not be able to have discussion or be able to make a motion to table and send it again to the policy review committee review. I, therefore, respectfully ask you to vote no for this original resolution and support the new, amended version that will replace it.

You will find this new version on our next agenda under new business and under a new number. After our public hearing, our policy review committee can take a look at it and make amendments to it if needed, such as one in case we have a tie between the 12th and 13th unsuccessful city council candidates.

I would like to thank those councilors who are supporting this resolution. I hope the full council will support the final amended version when it is presented for vote.

I believe that if the council wishes to make a council rule to deal with a temporary solution to this problem, it is the Rules Committee's responsibility to deal with any such rule and report to the full council. This is a complete and separate issue and anyone of you has the right to put it on our agenda.

Happy holidays to all.

Sincerely,
Councilor George Bitzas

Agawam St. Patrick's Comm. Appreciates The Support

To The Editor:

We would like to express a genuine, heartfelt "thank you" to Six Flags Theme Park in Agawam, E.B's Restaurant in Agawam, *The Agawam Advertiser News*, and all of those who attended our fundraiser and helped make it a success.

The Agawam St. Patrick's Committee

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From The State Senate

by Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian



Legislative Agenda

Happy holidays! December is a special time of the year. It is a time when everyone's hearts and minds turn to giving, when we pay special attention to our family and friends and when we think a little more about everyone from loved ones to perfect strangers. For me, the holidays are also a reminder of my paramount goal as an elected official - to improve the lives of the people I was elected to serve.

That ideal remains my chief goal as I compile my agenda for the coming 2001-2002 legislative session. As I reach out to constituents in my district, no matter what age or income level, one of their chief concerns is always gaining high quality, affordable health care for themselves and their families. That is why one of my highest priorities for the coming legislative session is the passage of comprehensive legislation that covers more uninsured individuals and families while assuring that we pay a fair and equitable rate to our hospitals and community health centers for providing that care. I have always worked toward the ideal that health care should be a fundamental right of citizenship.

I will also continue my efforts to help victims of domestic violence by working to make them eligible for unemployment insurance if they leave their job due to domestic violence. For many, the need to protect themselves or their families necessitates that they leave work, the one place where the batterer knows where to find them. For others, the need to address the physical, psychological, or legal effects of domes-

tic violence interferes with their ability to get new jobs, or perform their current jobs. Once domestic violence has caused someone to lose their job, the receipt of unemployment insurance is crucial to their survival - without it, they lose the economic independence necessary to leave their batterers.

Another important part of my agenda is an effort to close a dangerous loophole in the law that places our senior citizen at risk. Under current law, because the existing statute is unclear, there is no way to prosecute a nursing home owner or administrator for operating a home in a criminally negligent manner. When homes are severely understaffed or are systematically defrauding residents with low quality care, blame should be placed where it belongs, not with direct care workers trying to do their best with limited resources and time, but with a criminally negligent operator. I have also filed a companion bill that will make it easier for seniors to recover damages for abuse they suffer in a nursing home or direct care facility.

Crafting a simple, efficient way for individuals to better access state services is also an important priority for this term. Modeled on the enormously successful 911 and 411 telephone numbers, I have proposed that we create a 211 telephone number here in Massachusetts. Residents could call this service, funded by a private/public partnership with the United Way, that would inform them of the availability of food banks, health care services, and the entire range of services provided by government and non-profit organizations. It would also inform residents of volunteer and other opportunities. Instead of creating new services, 211 is a powerful way to use the services we have more effectively.

I thank you for your support and for allowing me to serve as your State Senator. I will continue to work to advance the causes we all believe in, whether they be better health care, protecting our seniors or making government more efficient.

I hope you and your family have a happy and healthy holiday season.

Apply Now For "Citizens Police Academy"

Town residents or business owners interested in attending the winter session of the "Citizens Police Academy" can pick up an application at the Agawam Police Station at 681 Springfield Street.

The academy sessions will be held on 10 consecutive Tuesday nights from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the Police Station, beginning January 9th and ending on March 13th. The class is limited to 15 participants. The application deadline is January 3rd.

The "Citizens Police Academy" allows Town residents and business owners a behind-the-scenes look

at law enforcement issues in a 10-week session.

In addition to participating in classroom discussions, academy members will tour the Police Station and Western Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Center on South Westfield Street.

The classes will cover every aspect of police work from the dispatch desk to the investigative process used at crime scenes, and will include topics like juvenile issues, use of force and officer safety, patrol procedures, gang-related issues, and crime prevention strategies.

A REMINDER TO OUR READERS: *The final edition of The AAN for the year 2000 will be published next Thursday, December 21st. We do not publish between Christmas and New Year's. The first edition of the new year will be Thursday, January 4, 2001. The deadline for that edition will be Tuesday, January 2nd at 12:00 noon. Thank you.*



The Agawam Advertiser News

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THE AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS (U.S.P.S.-001-170) is published weekly for \$24.50 per year by PAG Publications, Inc., 14 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0263. Second class postage is paid at F.H., MA 01030 & at associated offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Agawam Advertiser News, P.O. Box 263, F.H., MA 01030-0263.

Recounts... Just A Part Of The Job

by Hope E. Murray
Municipal Writer

It appears that nearly five weeks after election day a president has finally been chosen. The entire country has kept a watchful eye on Florida and many people have been asking how Florida's voting system got to be such a mess.

According to Agawam Town Clerk and President of the Western Mass. City and Town Clerks Association Richard M. Theroux, outdated equipment is a big part of the problem.

"Their voting machines are antiquated," Theroux said. "The punch card voting machines were declassified in Massachusetts by Secretary of State William Galvin two years ago because they're so inaccurate and there were so many problems with them."

Agawam uses AVM voting machines.

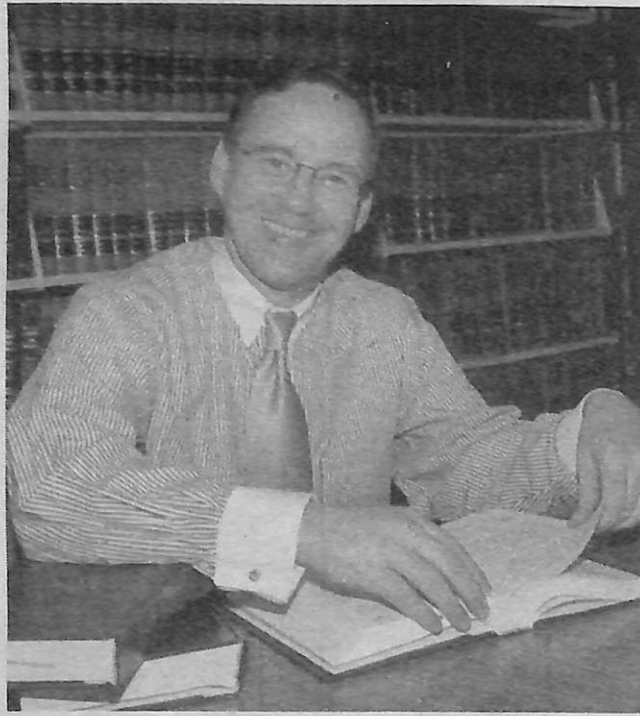
He added that the voting system has changed to make it more convenient for voters.

But in the case of a recount, that can make it more difficult for the ones counting.

Election officials not only must count each vote, but they also have to justify the votes. One of the main causes for concern in Florida - absentee ballots - is another area that can be confusing.

"Absentee ballots, in any election, are the most difficult to count," Theroux said. "You have to make sure the application is done correctly. You have to rely on the postal system and you also have to preview the envelope to make sure the vote is signed and filled out properly."

In one Agawam precinct alone there were 178 absentee requests this year.



TOWN CLERK RICHARD M. THEROUX

Theroux said that because absentee ballots are counted by hand, that gives another opportunity for error.

"In the Florida situation, they had a lot of problems with applications and problems with postmarks," he said.

Theroux has overseen five recounts in his tenure in Agawam and said it's not an easy process.

"The word recount to any town clerk is not the nicest of words to hear after an election," he said, but added that it's a candidate's right.

"People have the right to recount - everyone has the right to make sure all votes are counted."

Theroux said he hopes the current situation does not deter voters in the future.

"We want everyone to vote," he said. "If there's a recount, that's part of the job."

Agenda For Reg. Town Council Meeting Of 12/18

1. Citizens' Speak Time
2. Roll Call
3. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
4. Minutes - Regular Council Meeting of 10/16/2000
5. Declaration from Council President
6. Presentation of Petitions, Memorials & Remonstrances
 - (a) Resolutions
 1. TR-2000-44- A Resolution to File Special Legislation with the Commonwealth of Mass. to Amend Sec. 2-6 of the Agawam Home Rule Charter Regarding the Filling of Vacancies in the Office of Councilor in the City known as the Town of Agawam (Coun. Bitzas)(Charter Object on 11/4/2000).
 2. TR-2000-56- A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Peter J. Maynard, 63 Riviera Dr., Agawam, MA to the Agawam Municipal Golf Commission for a Term Expiring December 31, 2003 (Mayor).
 3. TR-2000-57- A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Rosemary Sandlin, 90 Granger Drive, FH, MA to the Agawam Housing Authority for a Term Expiring the Second Monday in January 2006 (Mayor).
 7. Report of Council Committees
 8. Elections
 - None.
 9. Public Hearings
 - None.
 10. Old Business
 - (a)
 1. TOR-2000-11- (PH-2000-14)-An Ordinance Amending Art. VII Agricultural Districts of the Zoning Code of the Town of Agawam by Adding Paragraph 180-37 F (Petitioner: Agawam Planning Board)(2nd Reading).

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Ground-Breaking For Library Expansion



A GROUND-BREAKING WAS HELD at the Agawam Public Library on Friday, December 1st, to celebrate the library's expansion project. Among those in attendance were State Senator Linda Melconian, State Rep. Daniel Keenan, Town Council President Robert Magovern, Mayor Richard A. Cohen, Chief Librarian Donna Campbell, Town Councilors, School Department and Town Hall officials. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

FireWise...

Juvenile Firesetters

by Fire Chief David Pisano

Estimates show that well over half the incendiary fires in larger municipalities are caused by children under the age of 18. In fact, many are younger. Boys are more likely than girls to be the culprits.

Unfortunately, simple curiosity, often combined with poor supervision, accounts for a large portion of the fires set by children, and the children who set fires are from a diverse group (with varied social backgrounds and varying motives).

Some children who set fires are from "unstable homes," and many come from poor families. However, the statistics do not define a specific racial or ethnic group to be involved, nor is it found that many of the children have serious problems.

When identified juvenile firesetters warrant preven-

tion efforts, the Agawam Fire Department provides these suggestions:

- * Reduce the likelihood that any child will engage in unsupervised or otherwise potentially dangerous fire-setting by removing matches and lighters from reach.
- * Reduce the likelihood that children who have engaged in occasional unsupervised and/or otherwise dangerous firesetting do not repeat this behavior by better supervision and/or corrective measures.
- * Identify and work intensively with those children who have an established history of firesetting.

Should you know of, or suspect, a juvenile fire-setter, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662 for help.

All the local news...

LEGAL NOTICE
APPROVED ZONE CHANGE
CITY OF AGAWAM
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE
ZONING ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGAWAM AS FOLLOWS:

The zoning ordinance passed and approved on December 21, 1972, to take effect on January 1, 1973, entitled "Zoning" is hereby amended by changing from Agriculture to Business A on property located approximately 350 feet West of Northwood Street, 200 feet North of Springfield Street and parallel to Springfield Street in Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the Westerly line of land of Frank Decaro said point is N 0°-29'-40" E a distance of 203.97 feet from the Northerly line of Springfield Street. Thence running along land of Frank Decaro a distance of 101.99 feet thence running N 79°-09'-59" E along other land of Decaro a distance of 168.39 feet.

Thence running N 88°-38'-59" E along land of Decaro a distance of 93.66 feet.

Thence running S 1°-21'-01" E a distance of 100.00 feet to the presently zoned Business A.

Frank Decaro

Adopted by the Agawam City Council on November 8, 2000

Ursula Retzler
Clerk of the Council

Published: December 14, 2000

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Linda Pisano has a job few people would envy. Every day she delves into the lives of children who have been physically abused, and fights in court on their behalf.

Assistant District Attorney Linda Pisano, the daughter of Joseph and Rita Pisano of Agawam and a graduate of Agawam High School, is the new head of the Child Abuse Unit at the Northeastern District Attorney's Office under District Attorney Elizabeth Scheibel.

In her new position as chief of the unit, Pisano oversees all child abuse cases in Hampshire and Franklin Counties, as well as Athol. She also prosecutes many of them herself in Franklin and Hampshire Superior Courts. Established in the early 1980's, the staff of the Child Abuse Unit includes nine advocates, two prosecutors, and a person specially trained to interview abused children.

Ms. Pisano said one of her first cases was the rape of a five year-old girl who was reluctant to testify against her rapist, her mother's boyfriend, because he threatened to kill her if she did. Ms. Pisano said she vividly remembers the day the little girl took the stand, nervously clutching a teddy bear and a lucky stone for courage. She hid her face when the jury came into the courtroom and refused to speak. Ms. Pisano approached the girl and told her, "Sweetheart, you have your teddy bear and lucky stone. Now is the time to use them." The girl squeezed both of them very hard and delivered a chilling testimony, according to Ms. Pisano. Afterward, the girl ran up to her outside the courtroom and gave her a big hug, exclaiming, "Linda, I told and I didn't die!"

"It had such an impact on me. I will never forget her words and the look on her face. I knew then and there I had found my niche."

Ms. Pisano spent 10 years prosecuting criminal cases under District Attorney William Bennett. Seven of her 10 years were spent prosecuting child abuse and adult sexual assaults.

Ms. Pisano said she loves her new job and that it was her dream to end up in Northampton out of law school.

Ms. Pisano attributes much of her success to the District Attorney who hired her right out of law school. "It was this valuable experience and guidance he provided over the 10 years that have prepared me for my new position. I shall always be thankful for his expert guidance," Ms. Pisano said.

Ag. Police Explorers Recruit New Members



RECENTLY, THE AGAWAM POLICE EXPLORERS held a recruitment meeting, called "First Night," at the Faolin Peirce School Community Room in the Agawam Police Station. This was an opportunity for new members to join the group. The Explorers meet every Sunday evening from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Police Explorers pictured above include (back row, from left) Lt. William Kraus, Sergeant Nicholas Balboni, advisor Michael Cirborowski, Captain Vanessa Galluzzo, Corporal Scott Drenzek, and Sergeant Tara Carter. Seated - Alex Morgan, Geoff Cushing, and Scott Weller. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Holiday Hours Announced For Agawam Public Library

On Friday, December 22nd, the December 23rd, Monday, December 25th, and Monday, January 1st, the 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. On Saturday, library will be closed.

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- Agawam Obituaries -

DOUGLAS A. FOUNTAIN

Douglas Arthur Fountain, 58, of West Springfield, died recently at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston.

He owned and operated Center Auto Body & Truck Repair, Inc. and All Service All Products, Inc., both of Agawam.

Born in Springfield, he attended Agawam schools and was a long-time resident of West Springfield.

He was an Army veteran of the Vietnam War and attained the rank of specialist four.

He was a member of the Springfield Yacht and Canoe Club, the Connecticut Gun Guild, and an antique car club. He was a former member of the Mawaga Sportsmen's Club, the Lions Club of Agawam, the Pioneer Valley Sportsmen's Club, and the Verdi Club.

He leaves his wife, the former Andra Hunt; three daughters, Cyndee George and Keri Fountain, both of West Springfield, and Rachael O'Neil of Glastonbury, CT; a brother, Harold of Agawam; four sisters, Madaline LaFromboise of Monson, Shirley Hebert of Chicopee, Gail Orlandi of West Springfield, and Marlene Lovely of Agawam; and five grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home and St. Thomas the Apostle Church, with burial in the parish cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the AA and MDS International Foundation, P.O. Box 613, Annapolis, MD 21404-0613.

HAROLD J. HASTINGS

Harold J. Hastings, 74, of West Suffield, CT, died recently at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford.

He worked at Union Carbide for 15 years and retired in 1991.

Born in Springfield, MA, he lived in Feeding Hills before moving to West Suffield in 1951.

He served in the Army, stationed at West Point.

He leaves his wife, the former Mary Sheridan; a son, Timothy Hastings; four daughters, Cindy Chase, Judith Rakus, Amanda Levreault, and Melissa Hastings; nine siblings; and seven grandchildren.

The funeral was private and at the convenience of the family. Heritage Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 1004, Meriden, CT 06450.

RUPERT M. KANE

Rupert Merton Kane, 91, of 175 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, died recently in a local nursing home.

He was a skilled carpenter for 45 years and retired in 1973.

Born in West Suffield, CT, he was a lifelong resident of Feeding Hills. He attended Agawam public schools.

He was a member of Local 108 Carpenters and Joiners Union of Springfield, and a member of the Roswell Lee Lodge of Masons.

He retired as captain of the Agawam Volunteer Fire Department after 20 years' service.

He was a member of the Agawam Sportsmen's Club and of the Agawam and Feeding Hills Bow Hunter's Club.

He leaves his wife of 62 years, the former Ethel A. Boyd; a son, Gary M. of Feeding Hills; a brother, Hollis F. of Feeding Hills; and four grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home, with burial in West Suffield Cemetery, Suffield.

Memorial contributions may be made in his name to the Agawam Volunteer Fire Department, 800 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

DORIS ROBINSON

Doris (Bourque) Robinson, 78, of 1365 Enfield

Street, Enfield, CT, and formerly of Agawam, died recently at a local nursing home.

Prior to her retirement, she was a bookkeeper for 29 years with the Nutmeg Building Supply Co. in Warehouse Point, CT.

Born in Louisville, New Brunswick, Canada, she lived in Agawam for many years before moving to Enfield in 1976.

She was a volunteer at St. Joseph's Residence for the past several years.

Her husband, Frederick Robinson, died in 1967, and a daughter, Christine Peterson, died in 1986.

She leaves four brothers, William Bourque and Dominic Bourque, both of Enfield, Richard Bourque of Nashville, Tennessee, and Guy Bourque of West Springfield; four sisters, Julia LaFlamme, Adele Nickerson, Shirley Hunt, and Nancy Lee, all of Enfield; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held in the Chapel of St. Joseph's Residence, with burial in St. Thomas Cemetery in West Springfield. Leete-Stevens Enfield Chapels was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Little Sisters of Poor, 1365 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT 06082.

BERTHA L. ZIEGERT

Bertha L. (Beaulieu) Ziegert, 94, of Agawam, died recently at a local nursing home.

She was a retired monotype operator for F.A. Bassette of Springfield.

Born in the Aldenville section of Chicopee, she moved to West Springfield in 1948.

Her husband of 60 years, Edwin O. Ziegert, died last year.

She leaves a son, George E. of Feeding Hills; a sister, Marie DeGrandpre of Springfield; and three grand-

SEE OBITS - Page 9

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featuring the live sounds of "Jamin' Jim Zerra."

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Happy New Year and please drive safely ... The Grasso Family

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OBITS - from Page 8

children.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and in Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills. Burial was in St. Rose de Lima Cemetery in Chicopee.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Lisa M. Ziegert Memorial Fund, 58 Spruce Circle, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

At The New Amelia Park in Westfield....

Park & Rec. Dept. To Offer Free Ice Skating

The Town of Agawam Parks and Recreation Dept. has reserved a "Block of Ice" at the brand new Amelia Park in Westfield on Saturday, Dec. 16th from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

This free skate is available to town residents. Skate rentals are available for \$2 at Amelia Park.

Town residents may pick up passes at the Recreation Office, Monday, Dec. 11th through Friday, Dec. 15th from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Passes will be valid for the Dec. 16th ice skating only and are limited to the first 200 people.

Our classified ads cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone. Please bring them to our office at 23 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills Center (above Remillard Insurance Agency), or mail them (along with payment) to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, letters, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter ...
ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

Veterans' Corner...

Readers Respond With Real Holiday Spirit And Generosity

by Edward Kellogg, Veterans' Agent
786-0400, Ext. 236 or 237

The holiday spirit and the gift of giving really show, with the response I received from my readers. I would like to take the time to thank you all for the generosity bestowed on our veterans in the Holyoke Soldiers' Home.

As you recall, I asked for donations of **PERSONAL COMFORT ITEMS and FUN THINGS**. The response I received was wonderful. My office was overloaded with all kinds of things. Men, women, and children came to make their donations. I also received many

donations from local businesses.

With your many donations, you are helping the home live up to its motto of "**CARE WITH HONOR AND DIGNITY.**"

It is not too late to give the gift of giving. I will accept donations any time for our soldiers.

On behalf of the Veterans' Office, the American Legion Post 185, and the Holyoke Soldiers' Home, we wish you all a safe and happy holiday. God bless you all.

For all the hometown news, you turn our pages each and every week ... AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

Happiness grows on our Holiday Tree

*Your gift can make
a difference to a special
child this season!*

United Cooperative Bank and the Holyoke and Springfield Departments of Social Services are working together to help make this season brighter for children in our neighborhoods.

Won't you help?

Visit your local United office and select a tag from our Holiday Tree. Each tag represents the wish of a young child whose only gift this season may be the one you donate.

Together, we can make the season brighter!

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Cooperative Bank

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Families

Business Brisk For Fresh Cut Christmas Trees



GLEN GARY CHRISTMAS TREE FARM ON SHOEMAKER LANE (left photo) was visited by Santa Claus and continues to be a popular stop for local residents each year. From left, with Santa - Megan Wills, Nathan LaValley, Julie Wills, and Muriel Fearn. In right photo, the Agawam Call Firefighters Assoc. is selling fresh-cut Christmas trees on Suffield St. (just before Rocky's Hardware). The trees are \$25 and up. Pictured are (back row) Ashley Quesner and John Johnson; (front row) Brandon Romano, Joshua Shea, and Amanda Shea. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.

Agawam St. Patrick's Committee Schedules Colleen Pageant

The Agawam St. Patrick's Committee will be holding its Grand Colleen Pageant at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 6th, at the Agawam Middle School on 68 Main Street. Admission is \$5 per person.

The Committee's Grand Colleen will be chosen, but not announced, by the judges at the pageant and will be presented at a Grand Colleen Brunch on February 4, 2001, with gifts from local donors, a scholarship, and a trip for two to Ireland provided by Travel Magic of Agawam. Application entries must be dated by December 15, 2000 and should include a \$10 fee.

Eligible contestants are young, single female residents of Feeding Hills and Agawam of Irish ancestry

between the ages of no less than 16 years and no more than 22 years-old by the date of March 17, 2001.

Eligible contestants must never have been married, nor have had children; shall have completed or now be in the high school junior year; and must complete a resume. All qualified Agawam and Feeding Hills residents remain eligible.

Please mail application entries to P.O. Box 825, Agawam, MA 01001-0825, or please contact Colleen Committee Chair, Susan Dawson, at 789-3400 for more information.



DECARO NURSERY MANAGER BILL RAYMOND (right) assists the Beavis family with their tree selection at the Springfield Street location. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

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Ag. Jr. Women Offering Final Holiday Ornament

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is offering their final ornament this year. The Junior Women have offered an ornament each year, celebrating Agawam's "historic" locations.

This year's ornament will feature the Agawam Veterans' Gazebo. This ornament will be available for the price of \$6, and may be purchased at the Feeding Hills Public Market or Surprise! Card & Gift.

Some of the past year's ornaments available are: 1992, the Old Agawam Center Library; 1996, Agawam Fire Department; 1997, the Agawam Town Seal; 1998, the Agawam Town Hall.

These ornaments are available by calling Betty Vershon at 786-4357 or Pam Quirk at 789-3274.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Junior Membership.

Ag. Jr. Women To Hold Holiday Meeting, Dec. 19th

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is holding its Holiday Meeting on December 19th, 7:30 p.m., at the Captain Leonard House. The December meeting is an enjoyable evening, with all club members bringing a gift and participating in a Yankee Swap.

The club's activities enrich the quality of life in our community through a variety of educational, social, and cultural projects and programs. Come to have fun, meet new friends, and get involved.

For more information, call Theresa Conklin at 786-6515. The club meets the third Tuesday of every month at the Leonard House.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Junior Membership.

*For all the hometown news,
you turn our pages each and
every week ... AAN!!!*

Lordy, Lordy Look Who's Forty!!! Mario Merc



Love, Ma

Christmas Face-Painting At Agawam Library



AGAWAM RESIDENT SALLY CRIPPS paints the face of Nathan Mickey at the Agawam Public Library last week while little brother Christian Mickey looks on. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

If you visit the Advertiser News' new office at 23 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills (above Remillard Insurance), please note that our main entrance is in the back. Please park on the side of the building and use the back entrance. Thank you...

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Ronald McDonald House Holds Dinner On November 18th

The Ronald McDonald House in Springfield has serviced over 5,000 families since opening its doors in 1991. The mission is to house families with a child being treated in a local medical facility (Baystate Medical Center and Shriners Hospital for Children).

There are times that they are full with 60 people. Each family has their own room. The house provides linen, laundry facilities, milk, bread, some recreation like TV, and a playroom for children. Since it is only housing provided, the families are responsible for obtaining and cooking their food. Often this means walking two or three blocks to a grocery store with a child in tow (no babysitting is provided).

A stay at this house can be for several months, especially when a child is treated on an outpatient basis and home is in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Not only is getting food a problem, but cold weather, lack of appropriate clothing, and non-English language add to the difficulties.

On Saturday evening, November 18th, the Holyoke Community College Student Nurse Club provided a meal by preparing and cooking it for the seven families present. Mary Ann Gazillo of Agawam, club advisor and professor at HCC, and nine senior nursing students (with their children) worked together to make it a satisfying evening for the families.

The students had cared for several of these children at Shriners Hospital during their clinical nursing experience, making this an additional reward. This was a first-hand opportunity to learn about their culture and language, and to realize that children are the same the world over.

For example, all week long, one child from St. Croix who had been cared for by the HCC nursing students at the Shriners Hospital for Children asked if his student was coming and would she bring him a "Pokemon" card. They were both at the meal and the student's son gave a special card to him. He smiled broadly and placed the card under his plate, guarding it from any possible hazard.

Broccoli, carrots, tomatoes, and butter were the favorites since they are not easily available in their own countries. Familiar faces when far from home and relief from cooking and preparing meals help to ease the long time that they need to stay in this country while their child is hospitalized.

Mark Girard, manager of Fame cafeteria at HCC, donated the food for this event. Senior nursing students who participated were Laura Rex, Linda Hensley and her sons, Andrew and Tyler, Sandy Marino and her sons, Matthew and Chris, Maureen Schultz, Tsering Dolma, Lisa Haracz, Brian Stec, Bonnie Thompson-Mastrianni and her daughter, Kaylee, and Marilyn Barnett.



PICTURED AT THE NOV. 18TH DINNER (hosted by the Holyoke Community College Student Nurse Club to benefit The Ronald McDonald House) are Sandy Marino, Matthew Marino, Christopher Marino, Marilyn Barnett, Mary Ann Gazillo, Linda Hensley and her sons, Tyler and and Andrew, Bonnie Thompson-Mastrianni and her daughter, Kaylee.



ALL SMILES AT THE RONALD MCDONALD DINNER are (from left) Holyoke Community College Student Nurse Club members Sandy Marino, Lisa Haracz, Mary Ann Gazillo (club advisor and professor at HCC), and Laura Rex.

Please remember to patronize your local businesses ...
ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

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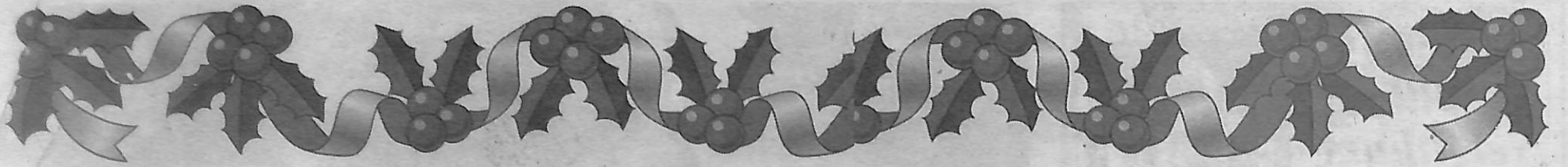
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**Season's Greetings
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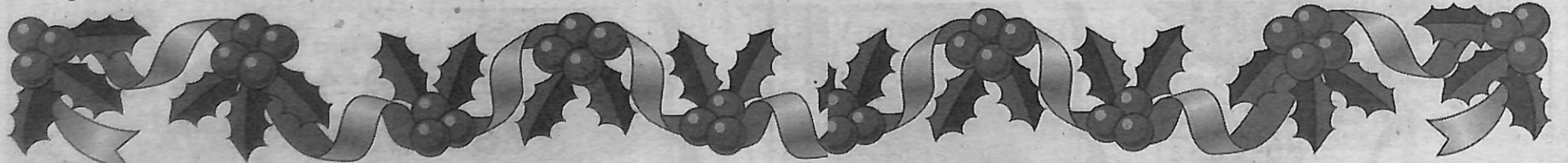


Our Holiday Hours

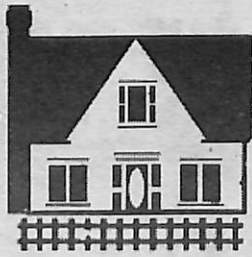
Christmas Eve - Until 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Day - Until 11:00 a.m.
New Year's Eve - Until 6:00 p.m.
Closed New Year's Day

719 Main Street, Agawam Center

"Open Every Day For The Rest Of This Year"



Your Neighbors



Feeding Hills Farmer Illuminates Nights For Holiday Season

by Kathy Shepard
Feature Editor

Richard Stepanik cultivates fresh, delicious produce and flowers during the year. But when the holidays come around, his creative instincts lead him to a different task; he's Agawam's mini-version of Springfield's "Bright Nights."

He sets over 40,000 lights on display on his property on Shoemaker Lane in Feeding Hills, creating a luminescent wonder for all who pass by.

"If all the cords were strung together, it would total over five miles," Stepanik informed us. "I use 2,500 feet of cords and 50 or 60 plugs," he added.

The lights all come on at once, and sometimes people park nearby, watching to witness the exciting moment. "It's something to see when all the lights come on at once," Stepanik said. "I've been doing this for about five years, around the same time Bright Nights in Springfield started up."

The process takes Stepanik a week to complete, working the entire day with just a little help. "Everybody likes the display of colors and shapes. There are hoops over the driveway, reindeer, Santa, some angels, some snowmen, some soldiers..."

Stepanik or his helpers have to climb trees to put up the bigger shapes. Other lights rest on sticks.

"Hundreds of cars come by every night. Kids love



CEMETERY LOGS continue to be a popular item at the farm stand of Richard Stepanik, located on Shoemaker Lane in Feeding Hills. Owner Richard Stepanik (above) welcomes townspeople to stop in while they view his wonderful Christmas display of lights. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

it. The first year, I just decorated the front of my house, but the next year, I 'skyballed them.' It means a lot to me to do this for people."

The lights run every day until after the first of January. The cost to run these beautiful bulbs is \$15 a day. The lights go on at 4:30 p.m. (automatically) and turn off at midnight. He pays for it all and does not charge a cent to anyone who wants to enjoy the lights. Stepanik has worked at the farm since he was "a kid."

During the Christmas season, Stepanik Farm sells Christmas trees and has free delivery. There are also wreaths, cemetery logs, poinsettias, and other holiday decorations available. A visit to Stepanik Farm should be on everyone's list each year to view the panorama of fabulous radiance provided by the determination and generosity of Richard Stepanik.

If you visit the Advertiser News' new office at 23 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills (above Remillard Insurance), please note that our main entrance is in the back. Please park on the side of the building and use the back entrance. Thank you...



RICHARD STEPANIK, owner and operator of Richard Stepanik Farm on Shoemaker Lane, holds one of the freshly-cut Christmas trees waiting for an owner at his farm stand, which is also Agawam's version of "Bright Nights." Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

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Town History Book Great For Gift-Giving

Whether you're a long-time resident or new to Agawam, the just-published Images of America title *Agawam & Feeding Hills, Massachusetts* (put out by Arcadia Press for the Agawam Historical Association) is sure to be a welcome holiday gift.

Visit Agawam of years past and see landmarks such as Randall Field, Bowles Airport, and the Feeding Hills train station. Agawam's rich agricultural heritage is showcased, as well as the Agawam Fire Department and Riverside Park. An especially fascinating chapter is devoted to several dozen photos reproduced from glass negatives taken in Agawam Center in 1895-6. In all, over 200 photographs from 1875-1950 chronicle an Agawam and Feeding Hills of another era.

The Agawam Historical Association produced the book as a way to raise funds for the ongoing renovation of the Elm Street Fire Station into the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum, and it has proven to be very successful thus far. The 400 books ordered initially by the Historical Association were quickly sold, as is a good portion of the second 400 ordered.

Copies are available at the Feeding Hills branch of Woronoco Savings Bank during regular banking hours and the Town Clerk's Office of Agawam Town Hall at 36 Main Street during regular business hours. The price of the book is \$18.99, and all royalties will benefit the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum.

Out-of-town orders are welcome as well. Send your check made payable to the "Agawam Historical Association" to the Agawam Historical Association, Post Office Box 552, Agawam, Massachusetts 01001. The cost per copy is \$20.12 shipped book rate, or \$22.19 shipped Priority Mail.

Upcoming March 4th Fashion Show...

Jr. Women Looking For Support From Area Businesses

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is in the planning stages for their "Step Into Style" Spring Fashion Show to be held at Chez Josef on March 4th, 2001. The proceeds generated from the event will benefit the AJWC's **Annual Scholarship Fund** for qualifying high school seniors.

In order to offset the cost of the show, donations are needed. The AJWC is asking area businesses and retailers to partner with them for this event. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation with a raffle or financial gift, please call Mary O'Connell at 733-7300 for more information.

Your company name will be listed in the fashion show program and other publicity for the event. The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts.

Our classified ads cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone. Please bring them to our office at 23 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills Center (above Remillard Insurance Agency), or mail them (along with payment) to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

Agawam Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Mon., Dec. 18th: Swedish meatballs on egg noodles, mixed vegetables, whole wheat bread, banana.

Tues., Dec. 19th: Corn chowder, chicken Caesar salad, breadstick, mixed fruit.

Wed., Dec. 20th: Lasagna w/meatballs, salad, Vienna bread, peaches.

Thurs., Dec. 21st: Teriyaki ribs, baked beans, cole slaw, rye bread, pineapple.

Fri., Dec. 22nd: Brunch (8:30) - scrambled eggs, breakfast sausage, French toast sticks, orange juice, canteloupe, muffin.

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

Agawam St. Patrick's Committee Slates General Meeting

The Agawam St. Patrick's Committee will be holding its next general meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 3rd, at the Agawam Junior High School teachers' cafeteria (Springfield Street).

All are invited to attend this meeting.

Advertiser News

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SPECIALS

APPETIZER:

Artichoke Hearts Genovese - Artichoke hearts egg-battered and sauteed with garlic, sherry, lemon and parsley topped with mozzarella cheese.

ENTREES:

Oak-grilled Salmon - Oak-grilled salmon over Bistro polenta with seasonal vegetables, pancetta leek beurre blanc and crispy fried sage.

Grilled Maple-glazed Pork Chop - Grilled maple-glazed pork chop served with caramelized onions over garlicky pan-seared potatoes and seasonal vegetables garnished with apple chips.

PLAN YOUR OFFICE AND FAMILY PARTIES EARLY!

Enjoy Autumn nights in the Bistro Lounge with the sounds of:

Thursday, December 14th - Classical Pianist Vadim	7:00
Friday, December 15th - Guitar Vocalist Judy Simonds	P.M. -
Saturday, December 16th - Pianist Natalie Borowiec	???

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Every Monday Night is Pasta Night

Special Pasta Dinners

\$9.95

This special is in addition to our regular menu.

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Salad, Entree and Dessert

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MR. & MRS. SCOTT B. DUNN

Michele Crean Weds Scott Dunn

Michele M. Crean and Scott B. Dunn were recently married in a ceremony at The Carriage House at the Barney Estate in Forest Park.

The Honorable Rebekah J. Crampton of the Hampden County Juvenile Court performed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Anna M. Crean of Feeding Hills and the late James A. Crean. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. & Mrs. David Dunn of Englewood, Florida and the late Sally Dunn.

Jennifer A. Crean attended her sister as maid of honor. L. Max Dunn served his brother as best man.

The bride is a graduate of Agawam High School and Central Connecticut State University. She is the office manager of the Clerk Magistrate's Office at the Hampden County Juvenile Court.

The bridegroom, of Southington, Connecticut, is a graduate of Bryant College. He is a marketing representative for Alliance Energy Corporation of Branford, Connecticut.



"Beauty Corner"

by Mary Ann Zicoiella
Salon Tres Chic
At Twin Silos
1407 Suffield Street
Agawam, MA 01001
(413) 786-8274

How Can I Get A Fabulous Winter Look?

With all the holiday parties and family affairs coming up, you should look special! Just remember, less is best! Keep it simple and don't add unnecessary things like overpowering jewelry or earrings. Large or dark-rimmed glasses will hide your cheek bones and harden your face.

Eyeshadow should complement your eyes, skin tone, and eye color. You don't have to match your eyeshadow or lip color to your outfit, so go ahead and play with those new winter shades...just make sure the total look blends. False eyelashes are back, adding a soft flow to the total look. These can be fun, but make sure the length is flattering and the look is wide-eyed, not sunken-in. Choose lashes that are not too closely woven together.

To add drama, a shimmer or glow powder or cream can be added to areas like cheekbones, under brow bone, neck, and shoulders. Finish your lips with a nice shine. If you don't have lipgloss, a little Vaseline will work nicely. **Tip:** Keep these products away from problem areas like scars, blemishes, or deep pore areas. This will only draw attention to these areas. Dry skinned women should avoid powder-based or shine

products as they will only draw attention to dryness. Oily skinned women should avoid cream-based products as these will only reflect too much light.

Hair can be enhanced by maybe adding one to three tones of highlight color to your natural hair color. Hair ornaments, ribbons, glitter, or a soft up-sweep will make your event extra special.

Don't forget your finger and toenails. The new open toe shoes will be revealing your feet, so put your best foot forward! This time of year can be so exhausting, so treat yourself to a pedicure and a manicure. Your fingernails should be the perfect extension of your hands. Nails should not be too long or square. If your nails are just not cutting it, try temporary tips for the occasion; these will last up to a week or more. Acrylics are still very popular, but keep them natural looking and not too thick. Have fun with color or choose a simple French look with some nail art for that special look.

Finally, choose clothes to complement your body shape and the occasion. Jewelry should also be used to accent, not to make a statement or overpower your look.

Have a great holiday season and look for our column next week. We will be sharing some great recipes for pampering yourself so you can look and feel great for that special event!

Thought for a smile...A child's face on Christmas morning.

Holiday and Semi appointments still available...remember, *beauty is our business!*

Got a hair, nail, or beauty problem? Send us a note and we will answer it in our column.

Junior Women In Need Of Donations

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is in desperate need of non-perishable food items for delivery of their holiday baskets. These baskets will be delivered to several needy families residing in Agawam and Feeding Hills.

Each year, the Agawam Junior Women's Club delivers approximately 30 to 40 baskets containing a variety of food, including a turkey or ham, assorted vegetables, and canned goods. An assortment of toys will also be distributed through this program.

Due to several unforeseen circumstances, the amount of donated food is in very short supply.

Once again, we are asking the entire community if they could possibly share their blessings and good fortune with several others in their area by making a donation to our holiday basket program.

We would greatly appreciate any donation, including frozen turkeys, canned hams, canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, packaged dessert items, and any other non-perishable food items.

Gift certificates to local grocery stores would also be helpful in completing the holiday baskets.

Drop-off locations include the Agawam Public Library, Westfield Savings Bank, Smart Start Preschool, Fitness First, and the Mayor's Office at Agawam Town Hall.

Please call Dee Adams at 786-9085 after 5:00 p.m., or Paula Macaulay at 786-0511 for further information.

We thank you for all of your support at this great time of need.



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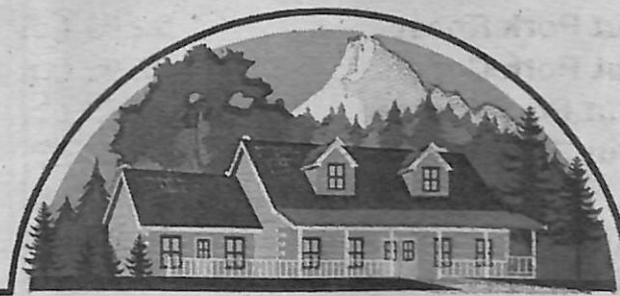
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Church News



Reflections...
submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the New Life
Christian Church,
Suffield, CT
(413) 789-1377 or
toll free (877) 643-9801

Angels Would Like To Know More About It...

Christians believe that all of the Bible is inspired by God, but we also realize that the Holy Spirit employed people to write the words of Scripture. *So we have seen and proved that what the prophets said came true. You will do well to pay close attention to everything they have written, for, like lights shining into dark corners, their words help us to understand many things that otherwise would be dark and difficult. But when you consider the wonderful truth of the prophet's words, then the light will dawn in your souls and Christ the Morning Star will shine in your hearts. For no prophecy recorded in Scripture was ever thought up by the prophet himself. It was the Holy Spirit who gave them true messages from God.*

As almost everyone knows, there are four gospels in the New Testament of the Bible. Of the four gospel authors, Luke is generally credited with being the most analytical. The Bible tells us that Luke was a physician, but when Luke wrote his gospel, he functioned as an historian.

Several biographies of Christ have already been written using as their source material the reports circulating among us from the early disciples and other eyewitnesses. However, it occurred to me that it would be well to recheck all these accounts from first to last and after thorough investigation to pass this summary on to you, to reassure you of the truth of all you were taught.

In other words, although Luke was himself not an eyewitness to the events of Jesus' life, he carefully investigated each of the stories about Jesus which he reported. Being a doctor by trade and an historian by avocation, Luke was probably not naturally prone to romanticism or exercising poetic license with his gospel. That being said, Luke wrote a complete report.

Luke reported about the events surrounding Jesus' birth. Some of those events are not extraordinary. For example; Luke wrote that *about this time Caesar Augustus decreed that a census should be taken throughout the nation. Everyone was required to return to his ancestral home for this registration. And because Joseph was a member of the royal*

line, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, King David's ancient home. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was obviously pregnant by this time. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born; and she gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped Him in a blanket and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn.

On the other hand, Luke also reported about highly unusual events. *That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared among them, and the landscape shone bright with the glory of the Lord. They were badly frightened, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you the most joyful news ever announced, and it is for everyone! The Savior, yes, the Messiah, the Lord, has been born tonight in Bethlehem!" Suddenly the angel was joined by a vast host of others - the armies of heaven - praising God. "Glory to God in the highest heaven," they sang.*

Being an investigative reporter, Luke refrained from speculating about what the angels might have thought about the extraordinary events which were unfolding and in which they themselves played a part. Could the angels have appreciated, when God first announced His plans to visit the earth, that He would do so in human form? Might they have dared to guess that He would appear as a baby, vulnerable to life's ups and downs? Would they have supposed that He would appear in majesty and glory, with awesome and unquestionable power?

Chances are that even though the angels are awfully smart, they would not have been able to guess what God would do for us. The Bible explains that *since we, God's children, are human beings, made of flesh and blood; He became flesh and blood too by being born in human form; for only as a human being could He die and in dying break the power of the devil who had the power of death. Only in that way could He deliver those who through fear of death have been living their lives as slaves to constant dread.*

Only in hindsight could God's angels begin to fathom the simple truth Jesus expressed; *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that anyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* Even to this day, the angels marvel at what God has done for us, which He had promised thousands of years ago to do, and inaugurated on the first Christmas. The Bible says, *the angels in heaven would give a great deal to know more about it.*

Parish News & Notes From St. John's Church

GIVING TREE: We trust those who have taken one of the "booties" will return the gift to the Church by **December 15th**, wrapped, and with the "bootie" on the outside. We hope this program enriches all of us as it has for the past several years. The committee did another masterful job of obtaining the necessary information, and is all set to expedite the distribution on the 15th. **Remember: 12:00 noon on the 17th is a final time for gifts to be returned. After that hour, there is nothing we can do with the gifts.**

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: If you would like your loved ones remembered in the purchase of our Christmas flowers, just put their name(s) on the special envelopes at the Church doors, and return it via the collection basket by **December 17th**. We will list the names on a poster in the vestibule and include them in the bulletin.

PARISH WEB SITE: Our WEB SITE has been completed and is up and running. The NEW Ministry Schedules are posted should you lose your printed copy. Suggestions? www.stjohnnevanglistchurch.org.

PICTURES WITH SANTA: We have several pictures of children with Santa from the weekend programs: Bazaar and Breakfast. They are in the Parish Office waiting for their owners.

SPECIAL REQUESTS: We still have need of two seventh-grade Religious Education teachers for the next semester beginning in January. Why not give the Parish Office a call at 786-8105.

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ny photos to our office for
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Angels in Agawam

Bethany Assembly of God

December 17, 2000

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789-2930

Announcements From Crossroads Christian Fellowship

Crossroads is located at 522 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. Our Sunday morning worship begins at 10:00 a.m. with worship leader Michael Caba and Pastor Gary Reiff, teaching.

Ladies Fellowship: There will be a Ladies Fellowship and Cookie Swap on December 18th at 7:00 p.m. at Nancy Osowiecki's house. Please see Nancy for directions.

Christmas Caroling - Dec. 23rd: Come out on Saturday, December 23rd at 6:00 p.m. to go Christmas Caroling. Please bring a plate of cookies to share with a neighborhood family and one to share with the church family (for a fellowship time after caroling). ALL ARE WELCOME! COME OUT FOR THE FUN.

New Year's Eve Celebration: On December 31st, Sunday evening, 5:30 p.m. Please bring a main dish and drink to share with everyone (dessert will be provided). We will have a meal and fellowship time with games and prizes for the kids. This will be followed by a time of worship and intercession for the upcoming year.

Intercessory Prayer: Sunday morning, 9:00 a.m.; Monday morning, 10:30 a.m.

Harp & Bowl: Saturday evening, 7:00-10:00 p.m. Worship & Intercession.

Worship practice takes place on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Home Groups: Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. (Jeremy & Christina Lockwood - Springfield; Mike & MaryAnn Caba - Westfield).

For further information, please call the church office at 821-0937. The fax number is 821-7941.

Advent News From Faith Bible Church

On Sunday, December 10th, we held our church dedication service. We were so pleased to see so many faces come through our new doors and see the wonderful work that has gone into our church addition.

We wish to thank all that were involved in making this undertaking possible.

On December 23rd from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., our teens will be having a babysitting day at the church. They will be babysitting and wrapping gifts for a donation.

People who need to do some last-minute shopping, or have not found time to wrap, are welcome.

We will again be having our Annual New Year's Fest at the church. Food, fellowship, music, games, etc., will ring in the new year.

This is always a fun time and a safe way to get together with friends.

Sunday, January 14th is our next Baptism. See Marilyn Cote to sign-up.

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Activities At Sacred Heart Church In F. Hills

Christmas Mass Schedule: The Christmas Mass Schedule for December 24th and 25th are as follows:

Sunday, Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve): 4:00 p.m., Vigil Mass; 5:30 p.m., Children's Mass; 12:00 Midnight, Midnight Mass.

Monday, Dec. 25th (Christmas Day): 9:00 a.m., Mass During the Day; 11:00 a.m., Mass During the Day.

WEEKLY MASSES

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.

Monday: 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 8:00 a.m.

Thursday (Eucharistic Prayer Service): 8:00 a.m.

Saturday (Vigil Mass): 4:00 p.m.

*Please remember to patronize your local businesses
this holiday season ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!*

Agawam Church Of The Bible To Host Christmas Play

The Good News Gang from Agawam Church of the Bible will present its annual Christmas play this year, "Is it Really Christmas?" by Marjorie Kennedy, on Sunday, Dec. 17th at 10:00 a.m. at the Agawam Junior High School.

All are invited to attend and share in this wonderful play free of charge. Come see the true gifts of Christmas unfold before your eyes and share some refreshments as well.

Our characters, Susie Spruce, Peter Pine, Jenny Juniper, Eva Evergreen, Polly Poplar, Angela the Angel, and many others eagerly await your arrival. Don't miss this very special treat.

For further information, contact Agawam Church of the Bible at 789-2904.

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PLEASE NOTE: We have moved the store - it is now on Route 147 (Memorial Ave) in the same town of West Springfield, directly off of Routes 5 and 91. The Mass Pike (Route 90) connects easily, too. We are located at the Century Center beside TJ Maxx. The store is almost three times as large and has the biggest music selection in New England!! Only minutes from anywhere in the area. Call (413) 732-0230.

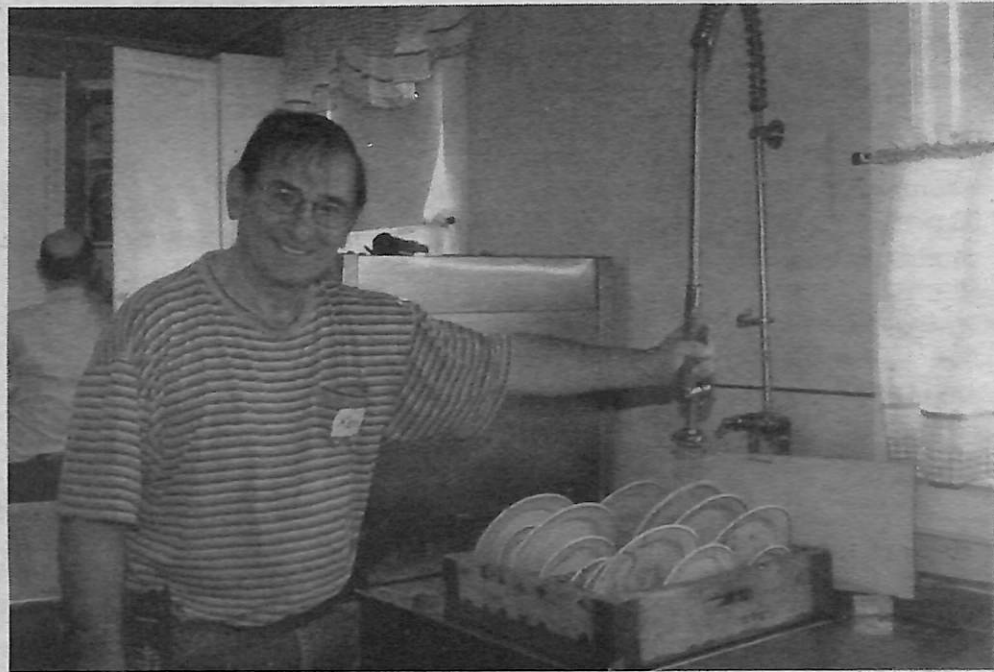
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At The Community Thanksgiving Dinner...



In left photo: The Reverend Robert Donaldson (left) of Feeding Hills Congregational Church was one of the large number of volunteers who gave up their Thanksgiving Day to serve a holiday dinner to people in the community. Pictured with Rev. Donaldson is Lani Kretschmar, who is putting together one of the many take-out turkey dinners. In right photo: Bobbi Snyder (left) and members of the Kretschman family - Christine, Lani, and Andrew - are among the volunteers who helped to make this year's community Thanksgiving dinner at Feeding Hills Congregational Church a special event. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.



In left photo: Serving a fine turkey dinner to those who attended the community Thanksgiving dinner at Feeding Hills Congregational Church are Julie and Paul Tobias. In right photo: Ken Santucci washes dishes at the community Thanksgiving dinner. This was the third consecutive year that the special Thanksgiving dinner was held at Feeding Hills Congregational Church. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.



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A Time For Giving



JEAN NEWMAN of the Pioneer Valley Harp Guild provides musical entertainment at the community Thanksgiving dinner at Feeding Hills Congregational Church. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



YOUNG AMANDA BERRY assists with the dessert table at the community Thanksgiving dinner. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



REVEREND ROBERT DONALDSON shows his dishwashing prowess at the community Thanksgiving dinner. Assisting Rev. Donaldson is Mike Pietras. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



"THE DISHES NEVER STOP," says volunteer Rick Kretschmar at the community Thanksgiving dinner. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Advent At St. Anthony's/St. Theresa's

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thurs., Dec. 14th: 7:30 p.m., Advent "Evening of Reflection" with Fr. Jude at St. Theresa's.

Sat., Dec. 16th: 4:30 p.m., Mass - Brightside Angels available.

Sun., Dec. 17th: 8:30 a.m., Mass - Brightside Angels available; 9:15 a.m., CCD, Grades K-6.

Mon., Dec. 18th: 6:00 p.m., Choir rehearsal for the 8:30 and 11:00 Choirs at St. Anthony's; 7:00 p.m., CCD.

Thurs., Dec. 21st: 7:30 p.m., Choir rehearsal for 4:30 choir at St. Theresa's

Fri., Dec. 22nd: 4:30 p.m., Rehearsal at St. Theresa's for children in the Christmas Eve pageant; 5:30 p.m., Parishioners to decorate St. Theresa's Church.

Sat., Dec. 23rd: 10:00 a.m., Parishioners to decorate at St. Anthony's Church; 4:30 p.m., Mass at St. Theresa's.

Sun., Dec. 24th: 8:30 a.m., Mass at St. Anthony's. No CCD; 5:00 p.m., Christmas Eve - Vigil of Christmas. Special Children's Mass and Pageant; 12:00 midnight, Mass at St. Theresa's.

Mon., Dec. 25th: 8:30 a.m., Mass at St. Anthony's; 10:00 a.m., Mass at St. Theresa's.

Sat., Dec. 30th: 4:30 p.m., Mass at St. Theresa's.

Sun., Dec. 31st: 8:30 a.m., Mass at St. Anthony's; 11:00 a.m., Mass at St. Theresa's.

Mon., Jan. 1st: 9:00 a.m., Mass at St. Theresa's.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT AT ST. ANTHONY/ST. THERESA PARISHES

Sun., Dec. 17th: Get with the plan *Make your ways my ways, Lord, in everything I do today.*

Mon., Dec. 18th: Look out for angels- *Speak in my*

heart, O God, and through your messengers who reveal your ways to me..

Tues., Dec. 19th: Remain hopeful- *Tune me in, O Lord, to the signs of your presence in Advent.*

Wed., Dec. 20th: You are the chosen one- *Help me to listen, like Mary, Lord, and to open my life to your will..*

Thurs., Dec. 21st: Keep it in the family- *Lord, you show us the Incarnation in the people we love. Help us to love freely.*

Fri., Dec. 22nd: Discover the other- *Jesus, help us to love Judaism, to respect all of the faiths where people seek your presence.*

Sat., Dec. 23rd: Be excessive- *Show us your generosity, Lord, and help us to imitate it.*

Sun. Dec. 24th: Rejoice!- *Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: **Shine on us!***

Merry Christmas from Father William Rousseau and the parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua and St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Churches.

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve: Regular Sunday Schedule - 8:30 a.m., Mass at St. Anthony's; 11:00 a.m., Mass at St. Theresa's.

Dec. 24th, Christmas Vigil: 5:00 p.m., Special Children's Mass and pageant at St. Anthony's; 12:00 Midnight Mass at St. Theresa's.

Dec. 25th, Christmas Day: 8:30 a.m., Mass at St. Anthony's; 10:00 a.m., Mass at St. Theresa's.

Dec. 31st, New Year's Eve: Regular Sunday Schedule - 8:30 a.m., Mass at St. Anthony's; 11:00 a.m., Mass at St. Theresa's.

Jan. 1st, New Year's Day: 9:00 a.m., Mass at St. Theresa's.

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News From F. Hills Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills. Our Third Sunday of Advent Service of Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. and will include the lighting of our Advent candles.

Rev. Donaldson's sermon is entitled, "Letting God In." The Scripture reading is taken from Philippians 4:4-9. Ushers will be Sharon and Ben Rozanski.

Children, who are invited to attend worship with adults, will be dismissed for Sunday School. Nursery care is provided for the very young.

In the tradition of the Wise Men, members and friends of this church will follow the bright lights as they embark on a journey to Bright Nights in Springfield on Saturday, December 16th.

The caravan leaves the church promptly at 6:00 p.m. Gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh are optional.

You may not have the voice of an angel, but you are invited to join us for a fun evening of Christmas caroling on Saturday, December 23rd, at 5:30 p.m. Afterwards, we will return to the church for some warm refreshments.

Little things do mean a lot - especially when those little things are brought together as Church World Service Gift of the Heart Kits. The Outreach Committee will be sponsoring a collection of completed Health, Clean-up, Baby, and School Kits during the month of December.

The contents of each kit, along with a collection box, are located in Griswold Hall. Our church has been a generous provider of kits in the past; we hope the generosity will continue!

There will be two services here on Christmas Eve. Morning worship will begin at 10:00 a.m. In the evening, there will be a special candlelight service at 11:00 p.m.

We will be taking a special collection for the Christmas Fund on December 24th and again on December 31st. This fund supports retired clergy and their families.

On the calendar:

Fri., Dec. 15th: 6:00 p.m., Wedding rehearsal.

Sat., Dec. 16th: 1:00 p.m., Wedding; 6:00 p.m., Bright Nights.

Sun., Dec. 17th: 10:00 a.m., Worship/Sunday School; 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., Church of Redemption in both halls.

Mon., Dec. 18th: 3:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Cub Scouts; 7:30 p.m., Worship Comm.

Tues., Dec. 19th: 3:00 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:00 p.m., AA; 7:30 p.m., LMMD.

Wed., Dec. 20th: 3:00 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Confirmation; 7:30 p.m., Choir.

Thurs., Dec. 21st: 3:15 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:00 p.m., AA; 7:00 p.m., Church of Redemption.

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St. Anthony/St. Theresa Parishes...

Advent Evening Of Reflection On December 14th

On Thursday, December 14th at 7:30 p.m., at St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church, 74 Bridge St., an evening of reflection will be given by renowned scripture scholar, Father Jude Surowiec, OFM Convent.

He is president of St. Hyacinth College in Granby, as well as co-director of the Lay Ministry Formation program for the Diocese of Springfield.

He will speak on the connection of Mary, St. John the Baptist, and Isaiah in the Birth of Jesus.

*For photo coverage in The AAN, call
786-7747 or 786-8137; however,
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Calendar From Agawam Congregational

On Sunday, December 17th, at Agawam Congregational Church (745 Main Street, Agawam), we will celebrate "Joy," the Third Advent series service, with Rev. Earl Eisenbach speaking on "Stop Here for your Holiday Spirits." Rick, Michele Cormier, and family will be lighting the Advent Candle of "Joy." It will also be Youth Sunday.

The Church Family Advent Program begins at 5:30 p.m. There will be a pizza supper with the viewing of a Christmas video - "I'll Be Home For Christmas," a special Christmas film starring Hal Holbrook and Eva Marie Saint. The setting of the film is 1944 New England, where an anxious family awaits the return of their war hero son.

During the morning worship, child care is available for infants and toddlers. The Senior Choir, with guest organist Helen Wyzga, will be singing "Born Today In Bethlehem" by M.K. Beall/John Carter, and "Ding Dong Merrily On High" by Gerald Tolmage.

Pastor Earl and his wife, Barbara, are members of the Order of St. Luke (an ecumenical world-wide healing organization) and are available for prayer after the service. Also, following the service there is a fellowship hour in Bryan Hall.

Come join Rev. Earl and his wife, Barb, in the holiday spirit on December 17th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in an Open House. All will be meeting in the Friendship Room for refreshments and a tour through the parsonage.

There will be a rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant after the service on December 17th and in place of Sunday School on December 24th. The pageant will take place at 5:00 p.m. on December 24th.

If you or your child is interested in taking a part, please see Steve Lemire (739-9911) or Lucy Young (786-3785).

Loaves & Fishes is a ministry that meets every third Monday of the month at 4:00 p.m., where a spaghetti dinner is prepared and served to the homeless in the area.

For more information on serving in this much-needed ministry, please call the office at 786-7111. You will go away blessed!

Men are invited to join the Men's Prayer Time, which meets at 7:45 a.m. each Wednesday morning. We read from the devotional guide "Upper Room" for meditation and discussion, with time for coffee and fellowship. This is a great time for men to come together and be strengthened. All are welcomed.

The midweek service continues on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. This is a service of prayer, sharing, and communion focusing on the healing ministry of Jesus.

Members of the community are invited to participate in all the church events. For further information, the church office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every weekday; call 786-7111.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, letters, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

"Hanging Of The Greens" At United Methodist

On Sunday, December 17th, the Agawam United Methodist Church will celebrate a special and beautiful service, "The Hanging of the Greens," with carol singing for Christmas and the telling of some special legends and stories of the season.

All are welcome. Rev. Walter Woitesek will lead the service.

The church is located at 459 Mill St. (opposite Agawam High School).

Bethany Church Offers Clothing To The Needy

Bethany Assembly of God, located at Route 57 and Main Street, invites individuals and families who are in need of clothing to visit the church on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Carole and Ron DeMatteo, who manage the free service of community outreach, said the small but busy facility also offers other donated items such as bedding, shoes, toys, and games.

For more information, call 789-2930.

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Spotlight on Business



THE CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN BOOSTORE on Walnut St. Ext., Agawam, has a huge selection of gifts and stocking-stuffers for both children and adults. IN LEFT PHOTO: Owner Larry White holds up "Larry" and "Bob" from "Veggie Tales." IN RIGHT PHOTO: Employees Brian Boulay and Karen Gladwin hold a sample gift idea while Chad Moore (left, back) browses through the large choice of greeting cards. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.

Cornerstone Christian Bookstore Yields Intriguing Gifts For Christmas And All Year

by Kathy Shepard
Feature Editor

Don't judge a book by its cover - or a bookstore, either!

At **Cornerstone Christian Bookstore**, 337 Walnut Street Extension, Agawam, a surprising assortment of gift ideas can keep a customer mesmerized.

The **Cornerstone Christian Bookstore** was originally housed in the Thorpe Office Supply building at the intersection of Main Street and River Road. It began as a computer consulting business from 1988, becoming a Christian bookstore in 1994.

In February 1997, the store was moved to the Walnut Street Extension address and has been there ever since.

Owner Larry White told us, "Our principle goal is to provide resources necessary to support people's relationships with God. We offer personalized services in a small, intimate store, and our line of products is diversified and appropriate for a person of any age."

Store hours are Monday through Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. til 5:00 p.m., Thursday from 10:00 a.m. til 7:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. til 5:00 p.m.

"We offer free parking at a convenient location, where shoppers can avoid the hustle and bustle of crowds. We have lots of gifts, cards, and Christian apparel. It's important to say that we are non-denominational but we are ecumenical, supportive of all denominations, but we are not an interfaith store," Larry said.

In other words, the **Cornerstone Christian Bookstore** provides items with a Christian message, and that can actually result in fun and good humor. When people have been away from a source of spiritual renewal for a length of time, they are not always prepared for the warmth, good-humor, fun and brightness which can be found in a Christian environment.

The **Christian Cornerstone Bookstore** is a place where a person is greeted warmly, where comical greeting cards with Christian messages are displayed abundantly alongside those with serious or religious ones. "We have a great line of materials for parents and youths to deal with some of the problems with peer pressure," said Larry.

"And our great selection also includes gifts for baptisms, confirmations, first communions, weddings, and other special occasions," added Larry.

Some well-known Christian comedians' CD's and cassettes can be purchased. Tapes from the Joyce Meyers series impart readings from the Bible that encourage listeners to realize that God does have a

purpose for each person and that everyone is important to God and important to others. They offer a listener a sense of worth.

Other gift ideas found at **Cornerstone Christian Bookstore** are self-help books by authors such as Barbara Johnson, which are light-hearted and inspirational.

"There are over 3,000 CD's and cassettes available, from traditional hymns to rock and alternative music for teenagers, like the Jars of Clay. We have many by Amy Grant, The Gaithers, Southern Gospel, and many other selections," Larry continued.

The original and popular toy line known as "Veggie Tales" can also be found at **Cornerstone**. Veggie Tales employ the tag line "Saturday morning fun,

Sunday morning values." A whole series of videos, puppets, puzzles, note paper, balloons and board games can be purchased right at **Cornerstone**.

Another gift suggestion is the video called "Left Behind." This story will be shown in February on DVD and Video, with actor Kirk Cameron, best known for his role on ABC's "Growing Pains." There is an entire book series based on the Book of Revelations dealing with the return of Jesus Christ. There is also a children's version of the book and a version on audio cassette.

The **Cornerstone Christian Bookstore** is ideally located and should be on everyone's Christmas shopping itinerary to find that unusual gift for that certain someone.

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Home Improvement...

Space ... we can never seem to have enough for everyone in the house. While putting on an addition might be the answer for some, there are times when it is not an option.

Another answer to this dilemma lies in one of this year's hottest trends in home remodeling - taking down interior walls. While this may not add to your home's square footage, it does add something else, visual space. Taking down a wall between a kitchen and dining room, dining room and living room, or even between two bedrooms, can really improve the interior footprint of your home.

Families now, more than ever, are concerned with their quality of living. They are opting for the large eat-in kitchens instead of formal dining rooms, or the family room/dining room where they can be together while eating, watching TV, using the computer, or doing homework.

Taking down interior walls allows all of the family members to be "together" while still doing their own thing. Just being able to see into the next room can improve conversation and make a house more "homey." It can also make a small house appear larger. This is great for the homeowner on a tight budget who is craving a change of décor.

Or how about that master bedroom you always wanted? Empty-nesters are finding that they don't need three or four bedrooms anymore, and combining two bedrooms is the perfect answer to getting their dream master suite.

If you are considering taking down one or more interior walls, here are some things to keep in mind:

* Is the wall a load-bearing wall? If so, this may or may not limit your possibilities.

* Are there outlets, switches, or heating elements that need to be rerouted? If so, give some thought as to where they can go.

* Although taking down the wall adds to the visual space, remember that you are losing a wall to place furniture against, and think about furniture placement with a wide-open floor plan. If you are creative, this can work great!

* If taking down an entire wall seems too drastic, think about widening doorways, adding archways, or even pillars. This will still define the two rooms but open them up visually.

* Always be sure of what is inside the wall before removing it. Plumbing, heating, electric, or air conditioning ductwork might limit you to what can be done.

* Remember that your decorating choices will have to incorporate the colors and styles of both rooms combined.

* Think about islands or peninsulas to divide a kitchen from another room instead of the wall that is there now.

* Check the ceilings in both rooms that you are joining. Are they the same height, style, material? They will need to be combined so that the transition is seamless.



PAUL JORCZAK IS THE OWNER of "The Phone Zone" located on Walnut St. Ext. Paul has many great bargains on cell phone packages, and the business is an authorized VoiceStream dealer. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

The Phone Zone Makes Digital Phones Accessible To Everyone

by Kathy Shepard
Feature Editor

According to Paul Jorczak, manager of **The Phone Zone** at 332 Walnut Street Extension, Agawam, there were three **The Phone Zone** stores opened on October 1st by owners Mr. Tratenberg and Mr. Krol: one in Agawam, one in Westfield, and one in West Springfield. By doing so, they have launched one of the area's largest chains in the wireless industry. Customers are delighted to take advantage of their present offer, which includes a plan that provides a free phone, a free leather case, free car adaptor, hands-free kit and no activation charge.

Jorczak explained, "This plan calls for a one-year commitment and costs \$20.00 per month and is the minimum plan. This includes 75 minutes at no charge and 250 bonus weekend minutes for the first six months."

The two owners plan and expect to open 10 to 12 stores over the next two years. They feel that it is the right time for this type of expansion in this market. **The Phone Zone's** goal is to be the area's leading Voicestream authorized deal.

As **The Phone Zone's** main office, Agawam plans to be the market leader.

"With excellent service, always great advertised sales and our guarantee from Voicestream that the customer will always get more for their money than

from our competitors, we should be the number one wireless communication specialist in the area, hands down," said Jorczak.

There are other plans, such as the more comprehensive 600 anytime minutes plus 2,000 weekend minutes for the first year. The cost for this plan is \$39.99 a month with, like the minimum plan, a commitment of one year. The next level costs \$59.99 per month and includes 800 anytime minutes and you get 2,000 weekend minutes free for one year.

All of these plans cover Maine to northern Virginia, regarded as the Northeast Neighborhood, with no long distance or digital roaming charges. Customers can purchase other phone styles and can take advantage of the rate plans mentioned.

At **The Phone Zone**, customers find one-on-one service, a convenient location, free parking, and hours that accomodate everyone.

The Phone Zone is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Located at 332 Walnut Street Extension in Agawam, **The Phone Zone** also sells pagers and a service plan. Call 789-8147 for more information about Voicestream and **The Phone Zone**.

If you have dropped off any photos to our office for Boy Scout activities, church events, etc., please pick them up after they appear in The AAN...

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New Changes To Homestead Laws In Massachusetts...

Effective November 2, 2000, every homeowner in Massachusetts is allowed to protect \$300,000 worth of home equity from most creditors (up from \$100,000 under the old statute) and, in the case of elderly or disabled joint homeowners, up to \$600,000 (up from \$200,000). If you have already filed a homestead on your property, you automatically get the increased protection and need not file a new declaration.

The declaration of homestead is a legal document filed at the registry of deeds that informs the public that the homeowner is asserting his rights to protect the equity in his home from subsequent creditors. The document must be filed at the registry where the deed to your home is recorded.

While a homestead can protect your equity in many situations, there are some obligations which are not covered, such as debts preceding the filing of the declaration; debts relating to the purchase of the home; tax obligations; and child/spousal support order obligations.

Most legal experts would agree that filing a homestead is a good idea for nearly all homeowners. Based on the substantial increases in the value of homes in the state in recent years, many people have significant amounts of equity in their homes that they can protect with the filing of this one simple document.

PAM SAVIOLI is a full-time professional Realtor with over 13 years of experience. Call Pam at 413-748-7565 with any real estate questions or check her web site at <http://pamsavioli.realtor.com>.

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Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, letters, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays.
Thank you.
ADVERTISER NEWS!!!



Timely Tips On How To Manage Your Finances

by Sue & Charlie Alvanos
Personal Financial Advisors
American Express
534-3883

More Women Are Joining The 'Dot.Com' Society

A 1999 study conducted by NetSmart America shows that women are the fastest growing segment of the Internet market today. Just four years ago, women accounted for only 18 percent of Internet users, while today they make up approximately half. But according to the study, this trend may only be in its infancy. By 2002, it's expected that women will account for 60 percent of those on the Internet.

Gender differences and the Internet. What's more, the NetSmart survey shows that men and women use the Internet for different reasons - men tend to use it for entertainment, while time-starved women use it as a tool to simplify their lives. The survey also shows women tend to gravitate towards the Internet for its community, relationship, content, and shopping features.

If you haven't yet jumped on board the "online craze," there's a wealth of valuable information at your disposal. If you're already surfing but are looking to make your Internet time more productive, here are a few ideas.

Investigate sites designated for women. More and more companies are reaching out to cyber-women. They run the gamut from retailers to financial service companies to auto dealers. Sites like iVillage.com and Women.com have huge followings despite being relatively new.

Most women's sites offer information on health and fitness, self-improvement, careers, food, money, parenting, shopping, and relationships. In addition, many of them provide an opportunity for you to connect with other women via chat rooms.

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You can locate additional women's sites through a site like Electra.com that offers links to other similar Web sites. As you browse, you'll find that many others offer a similar feature.

Managing your finances on-line. Many women have found they can make better financial decisions by using the Internet to help manage their money. A multitude of financial sites offer interactive tools to help calculate how much you'll need for retirement and college. You can also find stock quotes, local new investment opportunities, visit investment chat rooms, and join on-line investment clubs. E-banking is also gaining in popularity with women, as well as investing via on-line brokerage accounts.

Shopping via the Internet. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration's recent report, "Small Businesses Venture Into E-Commerce," on-line retail marketing is experiencing approximately 200 percent growth annually. If you haven't tried on-line yet, you've undoubtedly heard conversations where people have found bargains and enjoyed the convenience of home delivery.

Gathering information without intimidation. Many women Internet users are finding that the Internet gives them a way to get information on topics like finances that have traditionally resided in men's worlds.

For example, www.womenswire.com (Bloomberg's MoneyMode), www.wife.org (Women's Institute for Financial Education), www.americanexpress/advisors.com (American Express Financial Advisors) and www.iVillagemoneylife.com (iVillage.com's MoneyLife page) offer a wealth of information to help women get answers to questions they have about money.

Once women gather information and feel more comfortable in the financial arena, they should be able to take charge of their financial future and consult with a financial advisor without fear or ignorance.

Regardless of your purpose, the Internet is hard to ignore today as a viable way to make life easier. Once you take the first step and venture on-line, you'll probably find that you're hooked. There's no question that there's a world of useful information that's just a click away.



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Legal Memo

by
Alan L. Ferrigno, Esq.
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NEGLIGENCE & TORT Construction Site Accident - Fall From Crane

The plaintiff, a 32-year-old oiler and operator at a construction project, was standing in the well/cutout notch area in front of the crane tightening a bolt when his wrench slipped and he fell backwards approximately 10 feet to the ground.

The plaintiff alleged that the well/cutout notch area of the crane was a work platform that required fall protection. The plaintiff further alleged that the area was slippery due to grease, and the defendants failed to provide an anti-skid surface as required by OSHA.

Deposition testimony disclosed that the notch had no work platform use as originally designed but the defendants were fully aware that the placement of the hydraulic tank in the notch area would require workers to be in the well/cutout notch on a frequent basis. The defendants failed to provide the adequate fall-protection required to a work platform with an elevation of more than six feet, the plaintiff alleged.

The defendants contended that fall protection was not required, as the surface was not a work platform. Moreover, the defendants maintained that a harness was available to the plaintiff to be used as fall protection, which he failed to use, and therefore, the accident was the result of his own negligence.

The case settled for \$500,000.

Attorney Alan L. Ferrigno maintains an office at 546 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Massachusetts 01030. If you have a legal question, Attorney Ferrigno will attempt to address the same in this column. Please send any questions to the address listed above.

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United Co-Op Raffle Winners....



BRETT GEARING (right) AND SHANNA LONGHI (left, with bike) of Agawam had an early Christmas! They were the winners of a Dell Pentium III computer and a 20" bike (respectively) in a drawing held to celebrate the Grand Opening of United Cooperative Bank's 10th branch at 1325 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. Gina Fuskick (second from right), Personal Banking Officer at the Feeding Hills branch office, presented the prizes to the winners.

If you visit the Advertiser News' new office at 23 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills (above Remillard Insurance), please note that our main entrance is in the back. Please park on the side of the building and use the back entrance. Thank you...



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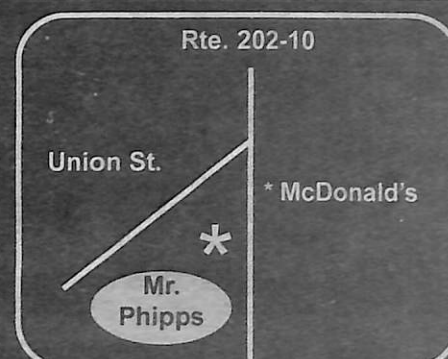
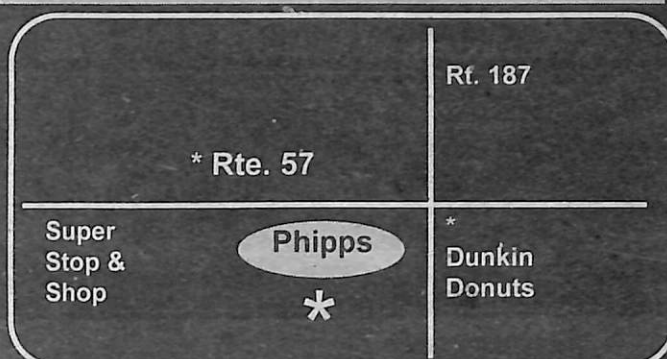
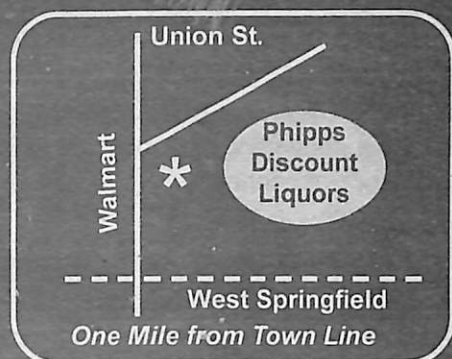
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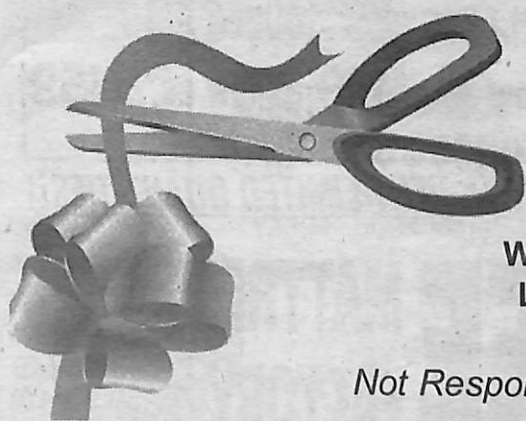
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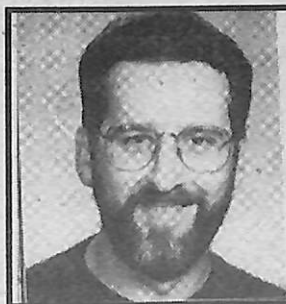
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Tears At Christmas...

I have three younger brothers, one older brother and sister. This is a story about my three other brothers. At the tender age of 12, I boarded a charter bus with 30 other teens from the greater New York area bound for a small town in Northeast Pennsylvania. We joined up with a hundred or so other teens to begin our freshman year in a Catholic Seminary, Saint Mary's.

Here is where my new family emerged: Owen's family lived in this small town; Tom came from a small town outside Philadelphia; and John came from Boston, joining our freshman college seminary class.

Each of us shared a close bond. Most of the time, our relationships grew through one-on-one contact. We shared meals, prayer, ministry, studies, athletics, joys, and tears.

John was the only one of us to become a priest. The three of us, however, have all managed to stay in lay ministry in one form or the other.

Our paths cross every now and again, but rarely do I find the four of us gathered at the same occasion. We were together at my wedding in '84. Then again in '91 at my daughter's funeral. Two years ago, we celebrated Tom's 40th birthday. This past Sunday, we traveled back to Northeast to be with Owen. His father died after a year-long fight with cancer.

I picked Tom and his nine year-old daughter up in Albany, and we made the trip together. Tom, John, and I were exchanging hugs in the center of the funeral parlor on Sunday night as Owen walked in with his wife. We each hugged and cried with Owen as he struggled to express his deep appreciation and gratitude to each of us for being with him.

Later that night, we sat together with his mom at her kitchen table, having a bite to eat. We shared old stories, commented on the politics of the day, and how we missed Owen's dad. Owen shared with me the following morning how, after we left, he and his mom talked about how much dad loved when the "boys" came over. His mom said, "Dad would have really enjoyed tonight." Then she cried for the first time.

The funeral procession from the church led us past the numerous grape orchards to a remote corner of town. Tom and I were the last to arrive at the grave site. Owen's family were all seated alongside the casket. Owen and his wife stood behind them. Our eyes caught one another, just like back in the days we played ball together. This time, he wasn't looking for a pass from me while breaking to the hoop; he wanted me to stand with him.

Tom and I moved through the gathering. Owen stood with his wife to his left, John to Owen's right, and Tom to the far right. I stood behind Owen and John as the final service began. I put my arm around Owen. At one point, I looked down in front of me and saw Owen clasping John's bulky winter coat from behind. Tom leaned into John. Soon, John had removed his warm hand from his pocket and reached

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behind his back and joined hands with Owen. I stroked Owen's neck. My three brothers and I stood together, quietly crying.

The service was over and we each hugged again. Owen looked up at me with tears streaming down his cheek. I embraced him and kissed him on the cheek. Later, we again shared stories and caught up with one another during lunch back at the restaurant. It became time to make the eight-hour trek home through the snow and ice. Owen and I shared a final hug, some tears, and a smile. He looked me right in the eye and said, "I love you."

During the Mass of burial, John served Holy Communion. Tom moved to the right before me. He went over to John to be served the chalice. I could see John swelling up with tears. I then approached John. He spoke softly, "The Cup of Life." His hands trembled as he extended the chalice to me. I took the chalice in my left hand and with my right, held his trembling hands. I said, "Amen." I drank from it and gave the cup back to him, saying, "Thank you for sharing your love."

We finally arrived in Albany. After packing his car, Tom and I hugged. Just before pulling away, he rolled his window down and I mine. He said, "I love you." He drove away. I prepared myself to complete the final leg of my journey home. Finally alone, I needed to pull off the road just after getting my toll ticket. I began to cry. I slowly caught my breath. I thought to myself, "How loved I am and how blessed I am to be able to share my love." Then I remembered the sign outside the church that was promoting an Advent study; it simply stated Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. - "Tears at Christmas."

I then realized, *Christmas had come early for me this year.*

Dan Pender

Please e-mail or write me with one of your holiday stories that you would be willing to share. I will maintain your anonymity, unless you indicate otherwise.

Dan Pender, MA, MFT, is a Marriage & Family Therapist with a local private practice. He is a Clinical member of the American Association of Marriage & Family Therapy and can be reached by e-mail at dpmft449@aol.com or P.O. Box 449, Agawam, MA 01001, (413) 789-4460.



**Food
For
Thought**
by Nancy Dell
Registered Dietician

New England Apple Cherry Crisp

Courtesy Of The Canned Food Alliance

Warm, juicy, crisp, and delicious - this American classic is both comforting and easy to prepare with the convenience of canned fruit.

INGREDIENTS:

2 cans (21 ounces each) apple pie filling or topping

1 can (14-1/2 ounces) pitted red tart pie cherries in water, drained

1 cup all-purpose flour

1 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar

1 cup uncooked rolled oats (quick or old-fashioned)

2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

1/4 teaspoon salt

3/4 cup (1-1/2 sticks) butter or margarine

PREPARATION:

Heat oven to 400 degrees. In ungreased 13 x 9-inch baking pan, combine apple pie filling and cherries; spread evenly. Set aside. In large bowl, combine flour, brown sugar, oats, cinnamon, and salt. Using pastry blender or two knives in scissor fashion, cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle evenly over fruit. Bake 30 to 35 minutes or until fruit is bubbly. Cool slightly. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Preparation Time: 10 minutes

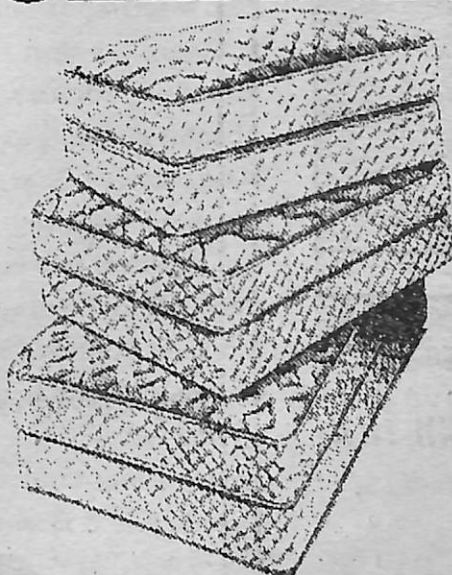
Cook Time: 30 minutes

Servings: 9

Nutritional Information Per Serving: 462 calories; 16 g fat; 41 mg cholesterol; 291 mg sodium; 79 g carbohydrate; 3 g fiber; 3 g protein.

Nancy Dell, MS, can be reached at 850 Springfield St., Suite 4, Feeding Hills, MA 01030, (413) 786-2957.

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Advice From Baystate Health System's Department Of Psychiatry...

Do Not Let "Holiday Depression" Get You Down This Season

If you're feeling "a little down" this holiday season, don't be alarmed. You are not alone.

"Many persons simply cannot live up to the often unreal expectations of the perfect holiday as portrayed in movies, television, and magazines," said Dr. Benjamin Liptzin, chairman, Department of Psychiatry, Baystate Health System.

"The general assumption is that we are supposed to feel happy and close to our family during the holidays, but that just isn't the case for everyone," he said.

Liptzin noted that the term "holiday depression" that people often read or hear about at this time of year is not a specific diagnosis.

"Holiday depression is not an illness," said Liptzin, "but persons may experience a sullen feeling around the holidays for a number of reasons."

Liptzin noted that the recent loss of a loved one, the inability to afford presents, and family stresses may contribute to a "blue Christmas."

The Baystate psychiatrist said that you can have a bad day and feel down once in a while, but it doesn't

necessarily mean that you're under the spell of depression.

He said that persons should consider seeking professional help if they are experiencing several of the following symptoms of clinical depression: trouble sleeping; appetite loss; loss of concentration; crying spells; suicidal feelings; fatigue; loss of interest in routine activities.

"If you are experiencing several of these symptoms for more than a week and you find that they are beginning to interfere with your job and everyday life, then you should have a professional evaluation," said Liptzin.

There is reason for hope, however.

"Depression is common and treatable. About 80 percent of depression cases are helped with psychotherapy or antidepressant medication," noted Liptzin.

For more information on depression, or for a referral to a physician, call The Professionals at 794-2255 or outside the Springfield calling area at 1-800-377-HEALTH.

* * * * *

If you visit the Advertiser News' new office at 23 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills (above Remillard Insurance), please note that our main entrance is in the back. Please park on the side of the building and use the back entrance. Thank you...

* * * * *



Chiropractic Care

by Dr. Tami Nelson
Chiropractic Physician
Hampden County
Chiropractic
850 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
786-4820

Taking Care Of Yourself....

The holiday season is here - in full force!

Oftentimes, people tend to neglect themselves at this time of year. They're so busy shopping, wrapping, baking, etc.

What tends to happen is they stop exercising; start grabbing quick, unhealthy fast foods; and take little time for themselves.

When this happens, the immune system becomes weakened, then ... BAM! ... here comes a nasty cold or flu. The body is saying, "Enough is enough. I need rest."

The body is pretty amazing. It lets us know what it needs. However, we choose to ignore it most of the time.

How many times have you ignored the ache between the shoulders or low back while shopping or wrapping? The mind is focused on finishing our list of "to do's," not focused on ourselves.

It's only when it's too late that people will say, "I should have stopped sooner. I did too much. I just wanted to finish my project."

This holiday season, give yourself a gift:

- * LISTEN TO YOUR BODY
- * SLOW DOWN
- * ENJOY THE SEASON
- * TAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF

Here's to a happy and healthy holiday season!

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, 786-4820.

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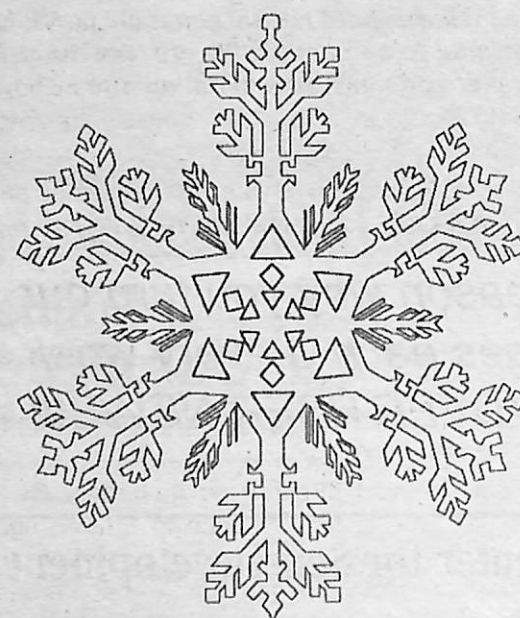
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Your Back And Your Health
by
Dr. Joseph S. Schlaffer
Schlaffer
Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam

Falling On The Ice Can Produce Health Problems...

Recent weather conditions resulted in a thin layer of ice covering many local sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots. As is common following hazardous weather conditions, I received a telephone call from someone who had slipped and fallen, now in acute neck pain. In addition to requesting my assistance for neck pain, they asked if the appearance of numbness in the fingers of one hand could be related.

Most of us understand how damaging a fall on the ice can be. You might suffer a concussion. A fall can cause an elderly person to break a hip or fracture an arm.

This office, as well as many area health care facilities, is equipped with x-ray on premises. Less obvious may be the degree of soft tissue damage, resulting in a sprain/strain diagnosis. Even subtler is a disturbance that may occur to spinal vertebra.

Impact to the human body often results in spinal subluxation (a complex of functional and/or structural changes in joints, which can interfere with nerve transmission, disturb other organ systems, and undermine general health). Spinal subluxations may have symptoms localized in some part of the back and may cause symptoms in the arms/hands or legs/feet.

WHAT CAN CHIROPRACTIC DO???

Chiropractors may treat by using pain-reducing spinal adjustments that have been developed over the last century, during which chiropractors have practiced, improved, and refined their techniques.

The chiropractic approach is to not only treat the pain, but also correct the underlying cause of the problem. They try to keep patients engaging in their normal activities rather than resting immobile in bed, which can actually cause further debilitation.

Chiropractors rely on hospitalization and medication only as a last resort.

The staff at the SCHLAFFER CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE includes both female and male practitioners. Feel free to contact us. We are located at 192 Shoemaker Lane in Agawam (telephone 789-1369 or 789-1073).

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Sponsored By Nat'l. Alliance For Mentally Ill...

"The Dangers Of Empathy" Slated For Dec. 18th

"The Dangers of Empathy," a performance that dramatizes the pain, tragedy, and lighter moments of mental illness as experienced by a 12 year-old girl and her mother, will be performed at the Annual Meeting of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Western Massachusetts, Inc.

This meeting will take place on Monday evening, December 18th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Shriners Children's Hospital, 516 Carew Street, Springfield.

June Gross and Viesia Novosielski (now 21 years-old) use song, poetry, movement, drama, and music to present Viesia's struggles for safety and stability.

Viesia Novosielski is a writer and artist affiliated with Gateway Gallery in Brookline, Mass. June Gross is a writer, journalist, editor, and former director of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health.

They are accompanied by Andy Zimmermann, guitarist.

To get to the Shriners Children's Hospital from I-91, take exit 8 to I-291; take exit 3 (Armory Street). Make two left turns, then a right turn onto Armory Street. Take next left onto Carew Street. The children's hospital is on your right. Park in the visitors' lot.

If you're traveling through downtown Springfield, go east on Carew Street past Mercy Hospital. The children's hospital is up the hill on your left.

For further information, call 786-9139 or 800-295-2121 (for toll calls in Western Massachusetts only). The FAX number for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Western Massachusetts, Inc. is (413) 789-1137.

Please remember to patronize your local businesses this holiday season ... AAN!!!

Support Group For "Essential Tremor" Sufferers

Do you have "essential tremor" (shaking hands, voice, or head for no known cause)? You are not alone. Millions of men, women, and children in the United States have it, too.

The Connecticut River Valley Essential Tremor Advocates is a support group that meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Chicopee Senior Center, 7 Valley View Court, Chicopee.

We invite you to join us to explore treatments and share coping strategies for essential tremor.

For more information, please call Judy at (413) 594-7674.

Alzheimer's Support Group At The Atrium

The Atrium, located at 153 Cardinal Drive, Agawam, offers free monthly support groups for individuals caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or a similar memory disorder.

On the first Tuesday of every month, The Atrium is the site for a support group meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. A light supper is included.

On the third Wednesday of every month, an afternoon support group is held at the Chicopee Senior Center, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

If you would like further information, please contact Judy Pothul at The Atrium, 821-9911.

Tears at Christmas

Read more about this in today's FOR YOUR HEALTH column.

from

Dan Pender

Marriage & Family Therapist

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Smoking Cessation Support Group At Mercy Hospital

A support group for persons interested in quitting smoking meets Mondays, 6:00-7:00 p.m., in the fifth floor conference room at Mercy Hospital, 271 Carew St.

Sponsored by the Providence Hospital Tobacco Control Program, the group offers services including individual counseling, cessation groups, alternative health referrals, education and motivational support.

Free nicotine patches and gum may also be available for qualified participants.

For more information, call the Tobacco Control program, (413) 493-2039 or (413) 535-1000.

Mercy Hospital is a member of the Sisters of Providence Health System (SPHS).

The SPHS's member organizations provide hospital and ambulatory care, rehabilitation, behavioral health services, nursing home care, retirement living, employee health services, home care, and more.

Heritage Hall Seeks Volunteers

Help spread some Christmas cheer! Heritage Hall, a member of the Genesis ElderCare network, is seeking volunteers of all ages and interests for the Christmas season.

Whether you play an instrument, sing, or are a whiz at holiday decorating, your talents are greatly needed.

Groups of Christmas carolers are especially needed to visit bed and wheelchair bound residents.

So gather your friends, colleagues, and neighbors and help us bring smiles to our residents' faces this Christmas.

Please call Kimberly George, Director of Volunteer Services, at 413-786-8000 for more information.

Support Group By NAMI-WM

On the last Monday of each month, a support group sponsored by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Western Massachusetts is held at the Agawam Council On Aging, 68 Meadowbrook Manor, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Best local news...

On Monday Evenings...

Mercy Hospital In Springfield Hosts Cancer Support Group

Persons with cancer, their families and friends, or persons who have lost a loved one to cancer, are invited to attend Mercy Hospital's Cancer Support Group.

The free meetings are conducted Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the hospital's Deliso Conference Center, 299 Carew Street, Springfield.

The group offers information on topics of interest to people with cancer, and provides an opportunity to share experiences in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Meetings are facilitated by Sr. Madeleine Joy, S.P., of Mercy Hospital's Pastoral Care Department.

A break-out group, designed specifically for those who have lost a loved one to cancer, meets on the first Monday of the month. A break-out group for care-

givers, meets on the second Monday of the month. Private sessions are also available for young people who have a parent with cancer.

Please call the Pastoral Care Department, (413) 748-9453, for more information.

Mercy Hospital is a member of the Sisters of Providence Health System (SPHS).

The SPHS's member organizations provide hospital and ambulatory care, rehabilitation, behavioral health services, nursing home care, retirement living, employee health services, home care, and more.

The SPHS is a founding member of Catholic Health East, one of the nation's largest health care systems.

Catholic Health East facilities serve communities in eastern states from Maine to Florida.

For photo coverage in The AAN, call 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event. Thank you for your cooperation...



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(Route 202) Westfield
(In Hampton Ponds Plaza)



Where To Eat??....



BOSTON POPS ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR KEITH LOCKHART consults with **Gloria DiPietro** of Bridge St., Agawam about good restaurants in the area. Lockhart and the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra will be at the Civic Center for the first time in two decades on Dec. 16th. Lockhart works on the show with John DiPietro, Gloria's favorite son, on the show in Springfield as well as Worcester, Portland, and Durham, New Hampshire.

Great Pretenders To Perform At Sr. Ctr.

The Great Pretenders community theater group will be singing Christmas carols for Agawam seniors on Saturday, December 16th at 1:30 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center.

The brief program will be part of their Christmas contribution to the seniors in the town.

They will also be singing at Quail Run, Heritage Woods, and Country Estates during the day.

- ADVERTISER NEWS -



Christmas Classics (Part I)...

This is part one of my two-part column on some films that I think should be viewed each year during the holidays. These classics are as much a part of the holidays as are eggnog and Christmas trees.

* **"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer": 1964. Not rated.**

Who could ever forget this timeless classic? This tale recounts the events just as they are heard in the famous Christmas carol of the same name. The film also boasts the impressive art known as "claymation" (animation using clay).

What makes this film so special for most of us, however, are the childhood memories that it evokes. We remember listening to narrator Burl Ives sing his now-classic songs throughout the presentation (songs that are holiday staples with my family).

Aside from the technical marvel that this film is, the characters are sure to be a hit with kids everywhere. Director Larry Roemer and Arthur Rankin, Jr. (a famed producer of such films) were definitely aware of the importance of color and facial expressions when creating the characters for this film.

So relive this childhood classic with your kids and watch their faces light up as the story unfolds. After all, like Rudolph himself, this masterpiece has gone down in history! **5 STARS.**

* **"How the Grinch Stole Christmas": 1966. Not rated.**

Director Chuck Jones of "Looney Toons" fame brings Dr. Seuss' book to life in this animated feature about the Grinch and his desire to ruin Christmas for all the Whos in Whoville.

He steals ornaments, Christmas trees, wreaths, and gifts from the citizens, including their beloved Holiday meal ... roast beast! Then he meet Cindy Lou Who, the major protagonist of the story who single-handedly provides the conscience of the mean Mr. Grinch.

The story introduces characters whom children can easily identify with, specifically Cindy Lou Who. This emotional involvement is what provides the film's holding power with the kids. With their short attention spans (as you are certainly aware of), this is definitely a good thing.

As far as adults go, this would be the perfect time to see this picture again before heading out to see the new Jim Carrey movie, "The Grinch." Just don't forget your red-and-white striped tall hat! **5 STARS.**

* **"Frosty the Snowman": 1969. Not rated.**

This is another unforgettable classic based upon a popular Christmas carol, and it proves to be as fresh today as it was the day it was first released to the public.

Although the aforementioned technique of claymation is not used in this picture, the animation still proves to be quite impressive. The title character of Frosty is about as kid-friendly as a character can get (which is a plus these days).

Jimmy Durante narrates and sings while Jackie Vernon performs the very lively voice of the title character. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" producer Arthur Rankin, Jr. teams with Jules Bass to simultaneously direct and produce this feature.

So whip up some hot cocoa and sit back and watch the kids see a song they know come to life before their eyes. Having said that, I assure you that not only will Frosty melt, but so will your heart! **5 STARS.**

* **"PISANO'S PICKS" REVIEW GUIDE: 5 STARS** - Extraordinary; **4 STARS** - Excellent; **3 STARS** - Good; **2 STARS** - Average; **1 STAR** - Watchable; **0 STARS** - Avoid.

Please send comments and film requests to "The Agawam Advertiser News," Attention: Lou Pisano, P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

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"The Food Dude"

by John Walters



Making Zuppa De Pesce...

Did you know you can send recipes to me? Please send them to P.O. Box 741, Agawam, MA 01001.

Recently, I was talking about zuppa de pesce on the radio and a friend of mine asked me to come and see how he makes a zuppa dish. In the saute pan, he starts with olive oil and whole garlic cloves. Start them to sizzle; now, add your clams or mussels.

Quickly saute them 'til they open; now is when you add the wine. Nicky laughed and said, "You overheat them and then, when they are thirsty, you give them wine to drink. It makes them happy, just like you get happy to drink the wine." Makes sense, does it not?

Now that the clams are drinking the wine and getting happy, you can crush your tomatoes over the top and then season the dish. It is finished quickly and filled with flavor.

Zuppa de pesce is just more seafood than zuppa de vongole (clams) or zuppa de cozze (mussels). So, for zuppa de pesce, add a nice fillet of cusk; cut into cubes some shrimp and scallops; and top off with a half lobster for each person (the dish should be juicy). Serve over a nice long pasta and with crusty bread.

So here is what you need for a dinner party of four: four lobsters, two pounds of small clams, one pound of mussels, one pound of cusk or cod, one pound of

scallops, one pound of shrimp, one can of whole Italian tomatoes, one bulb of garlic seperated, 1-1/2 cups of chicken stock, 1-1/2 cups of white wine, and whatever you need to season. I like mine spiked with just a touch of red pepper flakes.

In the restaurants, you will find that most cooks use a chablis to cook with (I am partial to French Columbard). If you are a bit squeamish about killing the lobsters and cutting them in half, ask your fish monger to do the dirty deed. Stop in as late in the day as you can, and go home to cook as soon as possible.

Just a reminder: I will be broadcasting again on WMAS AM 1450. Look for the ads so you can join the radio show each week and win prizes. Look up my web sites. You will find good people to do business with, recipes, and a whole lot more (www.johnwalter-swebcities.com, www.foodduderadio.com, and www.springfieldsouthend.com). Want to know what restaurants to go to, hairdressers, auto mechanics, and a whole lot more? Check out these web sites. Feel free to write in about recipes that you would like, or businesses that you want to know more about.

I'll have more for you next week.



Majestics & Divas In Concert At Majestic Theater

The Theatre Project will present The Majestics and The Majestic Divas in concert December 14th-16th at the Majestic Theater in West Springfield.

The Majestics, the "house band" of the theater, will take the stage on Thursday, December 14th at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 16th at 8:00 p.m.

In between the two evenings, on Friday, December 15th at 8:00 p.m., The Majestic Divas will entertain.

Several members of The Majestics are actors and musicians from *The Buddy Holly Story*, which was the first production at the recently restored Majestic Theater in March of 1997.

The group's close friendship and musical capabilities led them to continue on as a performing band that specializes in late 1950s and early 1960s rock and roll classics.

The Majestics have played at several area events, including WestSide's Taste on the Common, The Big E, The Taste of Westfield, and several regional fairs and private functions.

Tickets for these performances are \$10 and \$12 and can be obtained by contacting the Majestic Theater box office at (413) 747-7797.

Walk-in box office hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 2:00-5:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 4:00-8:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Ag. Cultural Council's Program Listings For "First Friday" Series

* February 2nd, 7:30 P.M. - Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam.

THE MOUNT TOM RANGE: Robert Schobe, historian and lecturer, will provide a historical tour of people, places, and things with pictures.

* March 2nd, 7:30 P.M. - Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam.

MICHAEL WHITE, AUTHOR: Novelist and short

story writer.

* April 6th, 7:30 P.M. - Agawam Middle School Auditorium, 68 Main Street, Agawam.

DUSTI DEFRESNE, VOCALIST: Oldies, rock and roll, and country songs.

* May 4th, 7:30 P.M. - Agawam Middle School Auditorium, 68 Main Street, Agawam.

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If you visit the Advertiser News' new office at 23 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills (above Remillard Insurance), please note that our main entrance is in the back. Please park on the side of the building and use the back entrance. Thank you...

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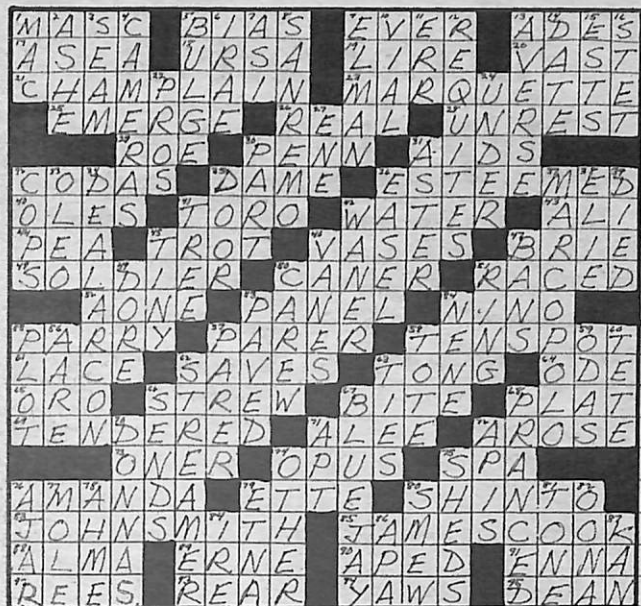
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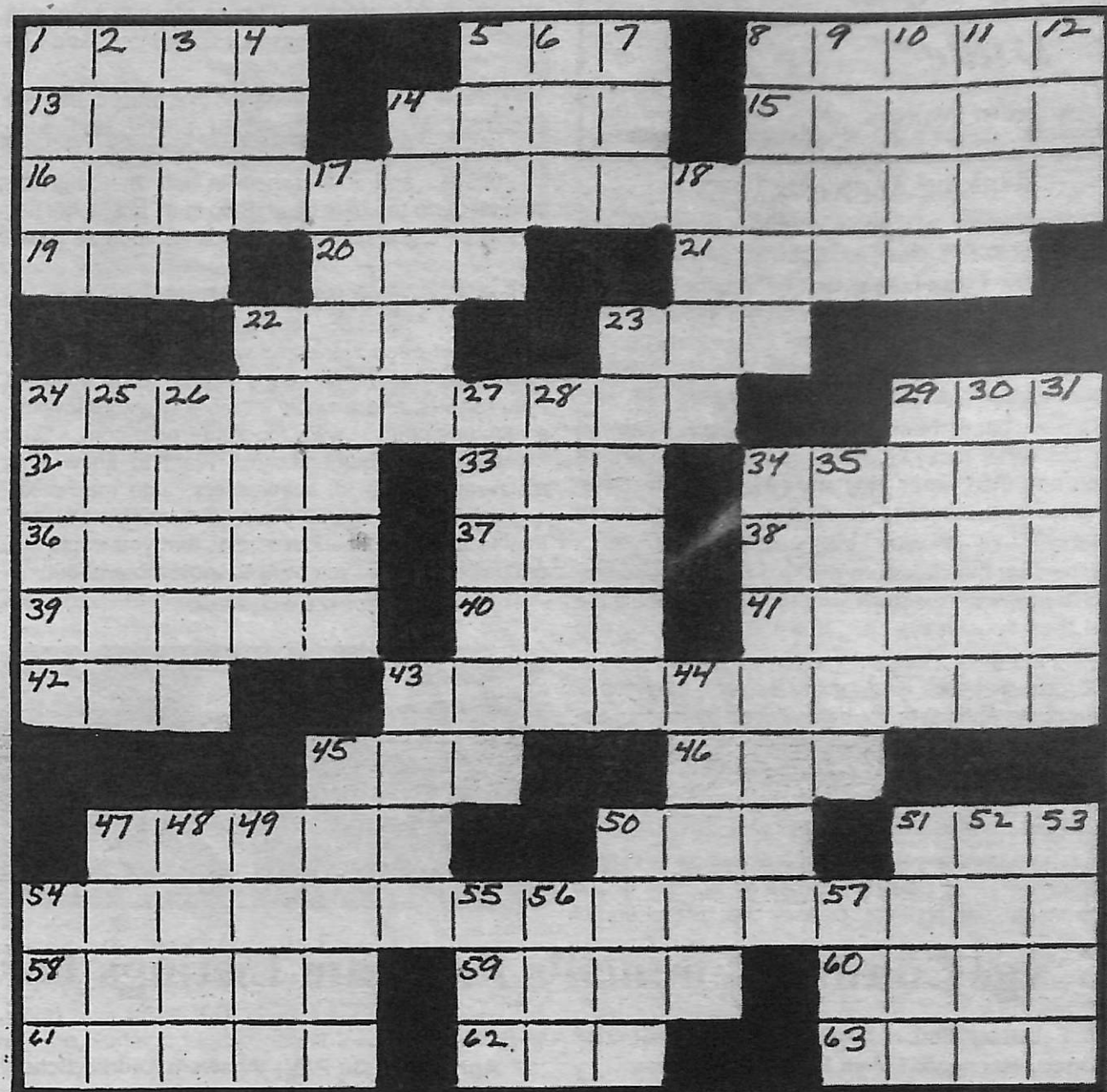
ACROSS

- 1 Big bash
- 5 Mist plus
- 8 Leaky faucet problem
- 13 Singletons
- 14 A flag color
- 15 Roof overhangs
- 16 1954 Oscar-winning picture
- 19 What Sprat could not eat
- 20 Fall behind
- 21 Ache for
- 22 Poetical contraction
- 23 Reo for one
- 24 Supporting actor in 16 A
- 29 _ a plea
- 32 Endure
- 33 Coastal soarer
- 34 Gaze rudely
- 36 Slugger Al
- 37 Dyer's tub
- 38 Water wheel
- 39 Turn inside out
- 40 Scottish uncle
- 41 An archangel in "Paradise Lost"
- 42 QB Dawson

DOWN

- 43 Male lead in 54 A
- 45 _ Alamos, N.M.
- 46 State big-wigs (abbr.)
- 47 Red color
- 50 One of the oceans
- 51 Thailand land measurement
- 54 1939 Oscar-winning picture
- 58 "That Old _ Bucket"
- 59 Ship deserters
- 60 In regards
- 61 Feats
- 62 Alcott of the LPGA
- 63 Stagger
- 1 Error (slang)
- 2 Siam teacher
- 3 Balto-Slav
- 4 Fire residue
- 5 Banner
- 6 Home plate call
- 7 Bee or whiz lead-in
- 8 Accept another decision
- 9 _ avis
- 10 Actor Novello
- 11 Famous Quaker

Meet The Master - by Dick Mastroianni...



- 12 Atlantic crosser
- 14 "Call Me _" (B. Hope film)
- 17 Fire or water
- 18 Pitcher Nolan
- 22 Respected tribal member
- 23 Football position
- 24 Writer Capek
- 25 Over
- 26 Up and about
- 27 Trues up
- 28 GBS offering
- 29 West Indies Indian
- 30 Bay window
- 31 Norman Vincent _
- 34 Get close
- 35 African antelope
- 43 E. _ (bacteria)
- 44 Cornell and Hepburn
- 45 Homeowners' prides
- 47 Composer Porter
- 48 Wave to Debussy
- 49 Marsh growth
- 50 Lawyer (abbr.)
- 51 Come to the surface
- 52 Pot builder
- 53 Adored one
- 54 One to trust
- 55 Refrain syllable
- 56 Descriptive for over-emoters
- 57 Armed conflict

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Education

First Annual Powderpuff Football Game

On Tuesday, November 21st, girls from Agawam High School held the first Powderpuff Football Game. The senior girls beat the junior girls with a tie-breaking race won by Tiffany Blackman.

What is the Powderpuff Football Game? It is a game of touch football played by the girls, with the boys' football team serving as coaches and cheerleaders. It is a fun game played by the senior girls against the junior girls to promote school spirit, as well as a fundraiser for the senior class.

The idea for the game came from Liz Stieg, who, in her travels playing AAU basketball, heard her teammates speak about their schools playing this game and the fun times they had doing so. She started to promote the idea with a petition. Her classmates, senior class officers, and senior class advisor Kathy Mouneimneh signed on, and the idea was presented to Principal Paul Cavallo Athletic Director Lou Conte for their approval.

So, for the first time ever, Agawam High School had its first Powderpuff game. Senior class advisors Mrs. Mouneimneh and Scott Trahan, along with junior class advisor Nancy Miller, started to organize the game.

Football players Ryan Malanson, Frank Ferrentino, and Seege Aguinaga were the coaches for the senior girls, with Ryan Sullivan, Josh Abraham, and Dan Neary coaching the junior girls. History teacher Wayne Morse and Coach Tad Desautels were the referees. Corey Federico and the remaining members of the boys' football team were the cheerleaders. The quarterback for the senior girls was Kara Barnes, and Stephanie Sadowski was the QB for the junior girls.

The Game...

The very first play of the game set the tone for the game. The senior girls had the ball on the 50-yard line. QB Kara Barnes handed off to runningback Tiffany Blackman, who ran right on a sweep for a touchdown. That would be the only score of the first half. Twice in the first half, the junior girls' drive was stopped. Senior Jen Leupo had two gem defensive plays intercepting QB Stephanie Sadowski.

The boys' football team provided half-time entertainment, and - to their credit - they successfully built a three-tier pyramid hoisting the Agawam Indian



AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS Keegan Clark (left) and Liz Stieg took part in the first Powderpuff Football game, a touch football game played by the girls with the AHS boys serving as coaches and cheerleaders. The event was the brainchild of Stieg, who got the idea in her travels playing AAU basketball.

(a.k.a. Corey Federico) to the top.

In the second half, the junior girls' team dominated the play. Each time, the juniors' game came up just short of a touchdown ... until QB Sadowski connected with Desiree Marsili for the tying touchdown. The game ended in a tie, and (consequently) a tie-breaker was held between the junior and senior girls, with the winning girl bringing victory to her team.

The girls were lined up at one end zone, with the seniors on one side and the juniors on the other. The

winner would be who reached the opposite end zone first. Once again, Tiffany Blackman showed her running prowess by winning the race for the senior girls' team, beating junior Desiree Marsili by a few steps.

The game was a rousing success for all. The only complaint was the weather being too cold.

As Liz Stieg walked off the field, she reflected back on the fact that she was able to take an idea and see it come to fulfillment. Hopefully, this will become a tradition at Agawam High School.

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First Powderpuff Football Game A Success...



AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS Liz Stieg, Ashlee Lorraine, and Kara Barnes were members of the senior girls' team that was victorious against the junior girls in the first Powderpuff Football game held November 21st. Powderpuff Football, a game of touch football, was held as a fundraiser for the senior class.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, letters, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter ...

ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

At Boston College...

Elizabeth Waniewski Selected For Order Of The Cross/Crown

Elizabeth Waniewski, a senior at Boston College, has been selected for membership in the Order of the Cross and Crown, the oldest and most prestigious honor society in the College of Arts and Sciences at Boston College.

Selection is based upon academic performance (a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher), leadership, and extracurricular activities. Only 66 of the 1,350 students in the College of Arts and Sciences are selected for this honor. The induction ceremony will be held on January 28, 2001.

Waniewski is majoring in English and American studies and plans to pursue a career in children's literature and publishing. She completed an internship this past year with Little, Brown Publishers in Boston in the children's literature division. She worked as an editor of the *Stylus*, Boston College's literary magazine, and compiled an anthology of past writing for the 50th anniversary of the magazine.

Waniewski graduated from Bethlehem Central High School near Albany, New York, in 1997. She was a photographer and sports writer for *The Spotlight* as a high school student.

Waniewski is the granddaughter of Anna J. Waniewski of Feeding Hills.

For photo coverage in The AAN, call 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event. Thank you.



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Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Mon., Dec. 18th: Pepperoni-topped pizza, garden salad w/spinach greens & Italian dressing, diced pears in syrup, milk.

Tues., Dec. 19th: Hamburg & gravy on whipped potatoes, seasoned vegetable medley, fresh Mac apple or spice cake w/icing, milk.

Wed., Dec. 20th: Diced turkey pieces w/gravy on whipped potatoes, seasoned carrots, dinner roll, rosy applesauce, white cake w/vanilla icing, milk.

Thurs., Dec. 21st: Meatballs w/tomato sauce, buttered macaroni & broccoli cuts, Italian bread & butter, fruit cup or chocolate chip cookie, milk.

Fri., Dec. 22nd: Grilled cheese sandwich, niblet corn, oven potato rounds w/catsup, chilled fruit cup or ice cream sundae cup, milk.

Agawam High School Guidance News

College Acceptances: Congratulations!

Jill Gendron: Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Ryan Malanson: Utica College

Scholarships: See your counselor for more information or an application.

Mensa Education and Research Foundation Scholarship: \$200 to \$1,000 will be awarded based on an essay of 550 words or less describing the student's academic or career goals. Requests for applications must be postmarked by December 31, 2000.

www.asapubt.com Scholarships: Open to high school seniors in good standing who plan to attend a post-secondary school. Apply on line to compete for \$50,000 in scholarship money. Winners will be awarded \$1,000 each. **Deadline:** February 1, 2001.

Counselor's News From Agawam Middle School

by Thomas F. Dacey
Middle School Counselor

The Middle School wishes to alert parents that Student Progress Reports, which warn of poor academic performance and other problems, will be issued on or about January 2, 2001. (Please note: this is a change from the date published in the newsletter that was distributed to the students.) Any student who is having difficulty in any subject should immediately seek help from the teacher involved.

It is important for all students to have a designated time period in which to work on homework every night. They should have a study area which is quiet and free from distractions. Parents can check on homework assignments by requesting that the student's Agenda Book be brought home every night.

The fifth-grade students have recently begun Phase III of their study skills program which concentrates on improving test-taking skills. The students are watching a video on test-taking techniques and are discussing with the counselor such topics as preparing for tests and following directions. The students are completing a written exercise on test-taking skills which they can keep and bring home.

Our classified ads cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone.

Please bring them to our office at 23 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills Center (above Remillard Insurance Agency), or mail them (along with payment)

to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

Lisa Reveruzzi In Bay Path's Annual Holiday Concert

Lisa Reveruzzi of 115 Spencer Street, Agawam, is a member of the Bay Path College Chorale and Keynotes that performed at the annual Holiday Concert and Service of Lights on Wednesday, December 6th, in Mills Theater, Carr Hall, on the Longmeadow campus. The popular event was open to the public free of charge.

Under the direction of Charles E. Page, associate professor of music, they performed a number of pieces. Included were Advent and Christmas songs in French, German, and Spanish, as well as a *Gloria in Excelsis* by Mozart. The audience was also invited to join the Chorale in singing a number of traditional carols.

Seasonal readings by student members of the college's Interfaith Council and the college chaplains were included in the program.

Following the event, the audience was invited to the new Blake Student Commons for a reception and light musical entertainment by the Keynotes.

Reveruzzi is a member of the senior class and is enrolled in the Travel and Hospitality program at Bay Path. She is the daughter of Jim & Pat Reveruzzi of Agawam.

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Course Offerings For Agawam Adult Education Programs

Registration for the winter/spring semester of the Agawam Adult Education Program will be held on the evenings of Monday, January 8th, and Wednesday, January 10th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Agawam High School Guidance Office (760 Cooper Street, Agawam).

Registration will also be held during the first week of classes on Wednesday, January 17th, and Monday, January 22nd, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Agawam High School Guidance Office.

Classes will begin on Wednesday, January 17th, and/or Monday, January 22nd, and will run for 10 weeks (ending on or about April 1st). Class time is 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The tuition charge is \$80 per course and must be paid at the time of registration. Checks can be made to **Agawam Adult Education**. No refunds will be given after the second class meeting.

Tuition will be refunded if there is an insufficient number of students registered for a course(s). The administration reserves the right to cancel course(s) for lack of registration and/or change the day a course may be offered.

Those persons interested in working toward an Agawam evening school diploma should bring with them a transcript of any course work completed since ninth grade.

The following is a list of courses and the nights they are being offered this semester:

Monday classes: English 09-12; EXCEL; Algebra I; Power Point; General Science; SAT Prep (March 12th - April 30th).

Wednesday classes: General Math; Computer Concepts; Microsoft WORD I; Oil Painting; U.S. History; SAT Prep (March 14th - May 2nd).

For further information, contact Alan R. Cohen, the director of the Agawam Adult Education Program, at 821-0519 or 821-0527.

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*From The
AHS Guidance
Office...*

by Judy Cohen
Agawam High School
Guidance Counselor

The VHS Program Has Arrived...

You're a senior and you really want to take a science, or you're a junior and you want to take a special music course. Well, guess what? Even though those courses are not given at our high school, they may be available through VHS - Virtual High School.

It's really an exciting concept, and we at AHS are delighted to be able to join other area schools and participate in a program that is available to students around the United States and the world via the Internet. Our program has been made possible through a grant with the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative.

Students have to be accepted into the program, then are given a private password, access their course, and begin to join "discussions" and work on assignments with people from all over the world. There are more than 150 courses that are offered in six foreign languages.

Just think about it. Students and teachers from multiple time zones and various schools will be taking the same course! How amazing and terrific!!! The courses will be available at AHS starting in January.

For photo coverage in The AAN, call 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter...

We have 20 slots that have been allocated for our use.

The program will be scheduled through the Guidance Department and will be available on a first-come basis to seniors and juniors who are looking for personal growth. None of the courses may be used to replace required courses. The course will be taken during non-school hours and will be supervised by an AHS staff member. Once the course is successfully completed, the student will earn AHS credit.

Just as in our school, there is accountability for the VHS course. At any time, attendance, assignments, and grade status are accessible and will be monitored. All NetCourse descriptions are listed online in the VHS catalog located in the Guidance Office or available on the VHS web site: vhs.concord.org. There are courses in the following areas: arts, interdisciplinary, language arts, life skills, math, science, and social science.

VHS is not for every student. But for the student who is self-motivated, likes to do independent learning, has computer literacy, super time management skills, personal commitment, and effective written communication skills, VHS may be just the thing! It will afford the student the opportunity to take high-quality, innovative online high school courses.

So, if this article has enticed you and you would like to be a participant, please see your guidance counselor for further information. You will have to apply and be accepted into the program. It may just prove to be one of the most rewarding things you have ever chosen.



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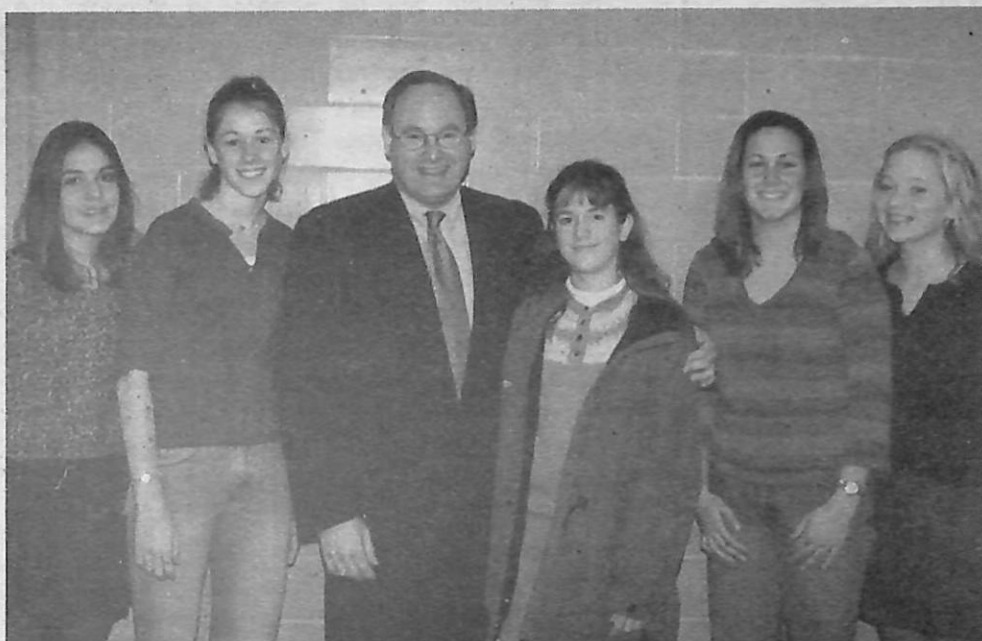
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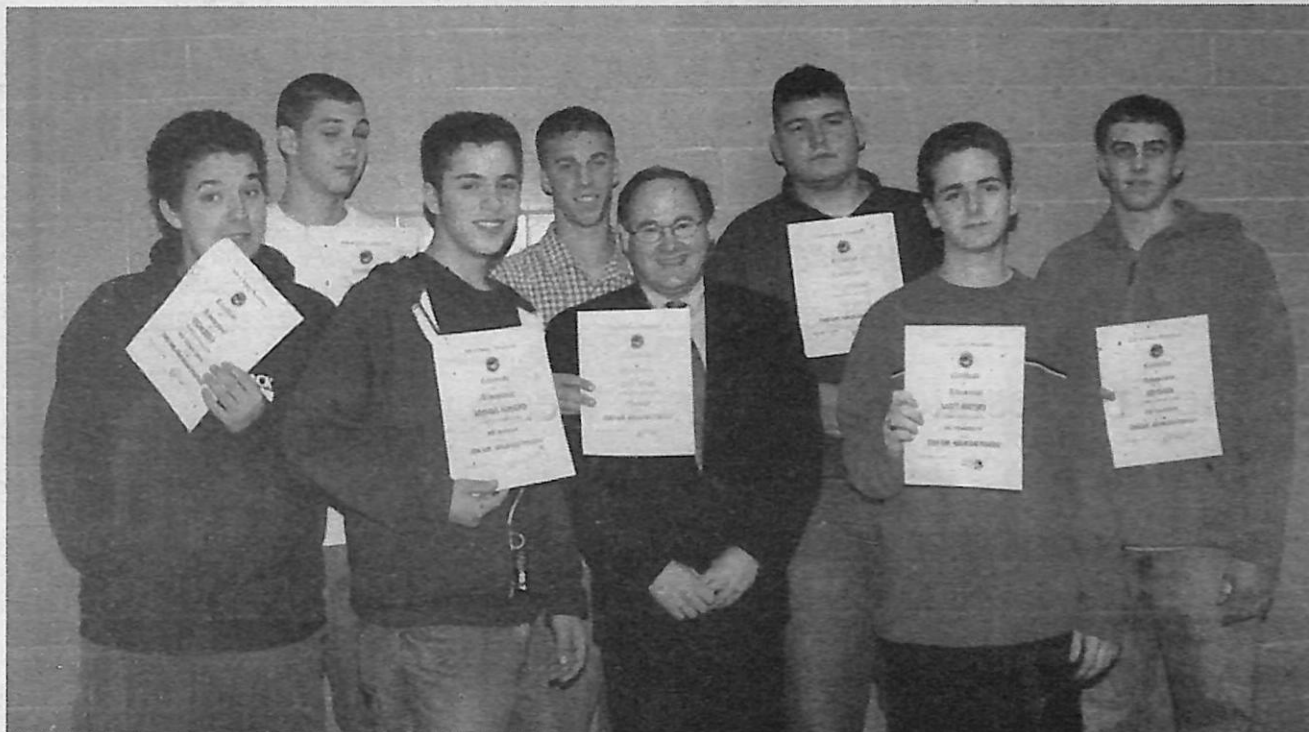
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Here Comes None Other Than "Mr Agawam"



THE FIRST "MR. AGAWAM" CONTEST was staged at Agawam High School last month and drew plenty of laughs and good-natured fun, as well as \$1,000 in funds raised for the junior class. The contest was sponsored by Mr. Tux and Smail's Flower Shop. The four junior class officers served as mistresses of ceremonies. In left photo, Mayor Richard A. Cohen and Agawam "Mayor for the Day" Linda Fortunato are pictured with the junior class officers (from left) - Jill Lawson, secretary; Jenna Shea, vice-president; Jackie Bennett, president; and Erin Gloster, treasurer. In right photo, on the day after the first "Mr. Agawam" contest at AHS, disc jockey Nate Thomas from KISS 95.7 livened up the school cafeteria to interview the winners and find out what was up with all the commotion. From left - DJ Mike Thomas, Mayor Cohen, "Mayor for the Day" Linda Fortunato, AHS Guidance Counselor Alan Cohen, "Best All-Around" Joe Clark, and "Mr. Agawam First Runner-Up" Dave Bienia. Both Joe and Dave said anyone wishing an autograph session can contact Alan Cohen in the AHS Guidance Office. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.



THE WINNERS OF THE FIRST "MR. AGAWAM" CONTEST at Agawam High School are congratulated by Mayor Richard A. Cohen: Front row (from left) - Colin Reilly, "Mr. Best Formal Wear"; Mike Federico, "Mr. Agawam"; Mayor Cohen; Matt Couture, "Mr. Congeniality." Back row - Steven Atkinson, "Best Stage Presence"; Dave Bienia, "Mr. Agawam, First Runner-Up"; Josh Abraham, "Mr. Agawam, Second Runner-Up"; and Joe Clark, "Best All-Around." Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

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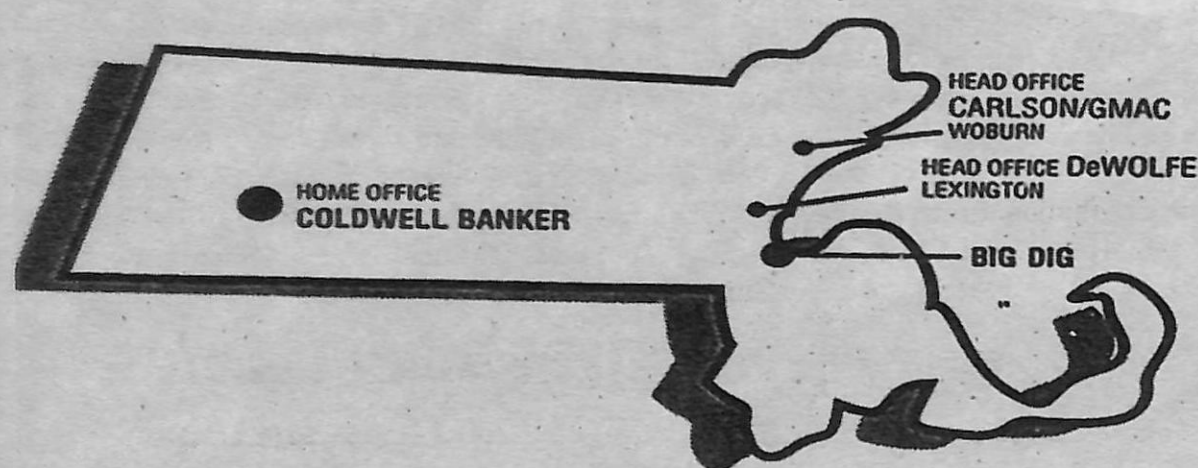
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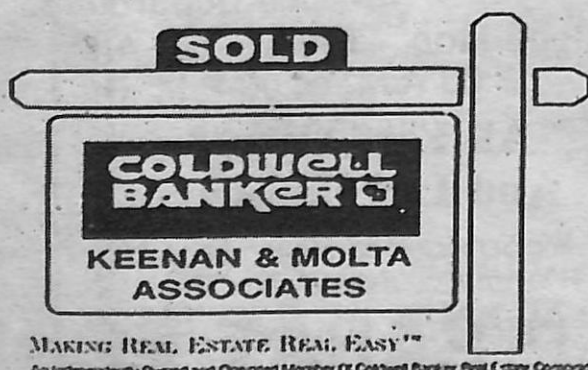
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Sports

The Weather May Be Cold, But The Action Will Be Hot!



AT THE RECENTLY HELD "MEDIA DAY," the captains and the coaches of Agawam High School's winter sports teams said that they are looking forward to facing the competition for the 2000-2001.

West Side Terriers Prevail, 3-1...

Zaczynski Under Seige But Keeps AHS Hockey In It

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High hockey team lost Tuesday evening (December 12th), 3-1, to West Springfield.

It was obvious from the get-go that West Side, the defending Western Mass. Division III champions, were going to outskate the Brownies. And they did.

They were in the Agawam zone so many times that they unleashed 44 shots on the Brownie net. Sophomore keeper Ryan Zaczynski stopped all but two. (West Side got a gift on an empty-netter with two seconds to go.)

The Terriers started out big. The Agawam defense had to step up. John Tisdell and defensive captain Adam Sprague did. They met up with two Terrier shooters, senior forward Kevin Liebro and freshman wingman Robbie Harlow. Zaczynski was all over the place: These guys shot at him like a machine gun.

Zaczynski did the goalie deal - flopping on the ice, making glove saves, deflecting glove saves off of bombs from the point, and stepping up to meet breakaways.

With 9:04 to go in the first period, Agawam forward (and captain) Tony LeClair had a semi-breakaway. He was ridden off the puck. Then Nick Depalma, Sprague, and Mike Peetros attacked. It was hard-

checking, good clean hockey. With 5:41 to go, West Side got called for a penalty. LeClair, Mike Davis, Mike Kosinski, Jeff Trauschke, and Tisdell were on the ice.

There was an Agawam rush. Out of the confusion, Tisdell got the puck from LeClair and Dennis Walters (in on a flying line change). Tisdell's score put the Brownies up, 1-0, with 4:38 left on the power play goal.

Agawam was flying behind Depalma and Tisdell. But West Side was even a little higher. Some good "D" by Davis and Jason Callahan was spoiled by a point-blank shot by Brian Christopher, and Zaczynski couldn't make the glove save on the short side. It was 1-1

with 1:42 left in the first period.

West Side came out big to start the second 15 minutes. There were bodacious checks all around. The crowd was going crazy. Ben Crum, LeClair, Trauschke, Mike Kosinski, and Callahan (who got banged into the boards and got hurt) were flying.

It was end-to-end hockey, and West Side (which got 10 penalty minutes in this one) stepped it up. Harlow had two breakaways. Defenseman Mike Garrity had one.

Agawam lost this game on what happens some-

SEE HOCKEY - Page 45

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*Boys' Varsity Hoop Preview...***With Good Returning Cast, AHS Looks To Climb Ladder**by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High boys' basketball team went 0-20 last season. It was a time when all of the faithful wished that they had some kind of temporary memory disorder.

It won't happen this time around. In the run-and-gun, rough-and-tumble world of Western Mass. boys' basketball, the Brownies (who might have gotten run over last season) should hold their own.

They'll win their share because they have some returning veterans and some kids coming up who'll make a difference.

Second-year Coach Brian Alves started from the top down. It looks right now that he'll have three senior starters, all with a good year or more of experience. Also in the mix will be two juniors. They should all be exciting to watch.

"We'll start with our point guard, junior Ian Kearney. He's 5'10", can handle the ball, and was a good player on our junior varsity team last year."

Then he went to the number-two spot. A.J. Martucci will be there. Martucci (also 5'10"), scored

200 points in 20 games last season (10.0 ppg, plus 25 three-pointers). "A.J. was our top scorer last winter, and he will be looked upon to take the shot at all times. That's the job of a shooting guard," the coach said.

The three spot (or small forward) will be handled by football star Vitaly Dzhenezherukha (5' 10"). "Vitaly is a very smooth player, a glider. He's a heads-up athlete," the coach said.

Shawn Mercadante will be the power forward. Mercadante scored 105 points last season for an average of 5.2 ppg. He also dropped down 27 three-pointers (first on the team). The six-foot-tall Mercadante should pose some problems for the opposition, according to Alves. "He can shoot and, with his speed, he'll bring up some big mismatch problems for whoever has to guard him."

The middle will be held down by captain Lou Conte, Jr. The 6'2" senior is a natural leader who will hold up against any big man in Western Mass., according to the coach.

Conte averaged 8.6 points a game last year,

despite giving up (at times) four or five inches to his post-up opponents. Senior veteran, Adam Ellsworth will come off the bench. He averaged five points a game last season. Another senior, Matt Dion, will also be called upon.

A Foursome Of Sophomores...

But Alves is particularly excited by a foursome of sophomores who will help now but are also the future of the team.

"These kids are very good and very eager. Joe Clark, our football quarterback at six feet tall, can play either guard position or the quick forward. He sees the entire court and understands the game."

Then he went on to 6'1" power forward/center Dave Bienia. "Dave will spell Lou Conte."

Then there is Mario Maloni. If the name sounds familiar, it's because he's the brother of former Agawam star Barbara Maloni (now a standout with the Brown University women).

SEE BOYS' BASKETBALL - Page 47

HOCKEY - from Page 44

times in hockey. With 9:35 left in the game, Sprague drove the puck up on the left wing. The Agawam defense was behind him. While Sprague's idea was right, his mates made the biggest mistake in hockey - everyone got caught up ice.

That set up a West Side breakout. It was off the classic center rush when there is no one to protect the middle of the zone. Senior defenseman Mike Tenczar had no one to deal with other than Zaczynski. He beat the Brownie keeper low left. Zaczynski wasn't robbed. He just had no choice.

West Side continued to pepper the Agawam net. Agawam might have tied it up when DePalma, Peetros, and Sprague worked a left-side deal with 20 seconds to go. It wasn't to happen. Instead, with 2.4 seconds on the clock and Zaczynski pulled, West Side scored its final goal - an empty-netter - on a shot from the Brownie zone.

* * *

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Profile...

Brownie Girls' Hoop Can Dial "Long Distance" With Liz Stieg

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Liz Stieg figures to be an important member of the Agawam High girls' basketball team this year.

Recently, the senior took some time out to talk about her days at AHS.

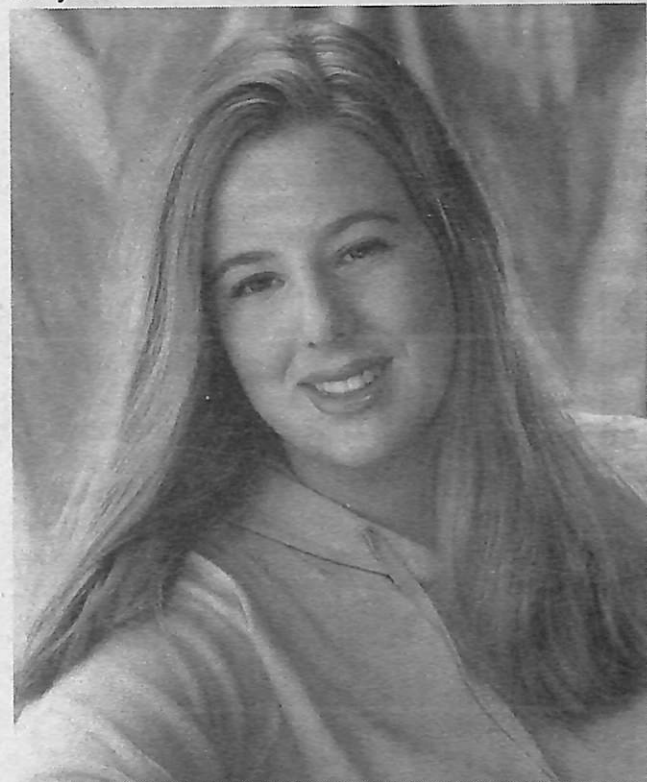
Liz is 17 years-old. Her birthday is March 19th. She has spent all four years of her secondary education at the High School.

Currently, Liz is taking sociology, integrated math, English 12, psychology, physical education, pottery, cartooning (she is the class artist), and she is also on the yearbook staff in the sports department.

Liz is a member of the honor roll and also the Renaissance Gold Club. The Gold Club means your attendance record is almost perfect. "Yeah, I've only missed one day of school in my time here," Liz smiled.

Her favorite teacher is Mary Wolochowicz (biology and also the girls' tennis coach). "She got everyone involved in her class," Liz noted.

Liz's favorite courses are physical education and the yearbook.



LIZ STIEG

A lot of schools are looking at her. She hasn't made a choice yet, but Bridgewater State, Rhode Island College in Providence, and Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York, are looking good to her right now.

Liz would like to major in physical education at the elementary level or sports marketing.

She plays basketball, volleyball, and tennis. Basketball is her favorite sport.

* * *

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Her fondest memory as a schoolgirl player came in the playoff game last season against East Longmeadow, where she drained seven three-pointers against the Spartans (setting a school record).

Liz sees this season as one of improvement. Last year, Agawam went 11-10. "I think we have a deeper team this year. We're stronger physically. And we are also taller. I think we'll be back in the playoffs and go beyond the first round."

Her favorite food is chicken.

Yellow is her number-one hue. "I like it because it's cheerful," she said.

Her ride would be a 2001 yellow sports car; an Eclipse, Mustang, or Jetta would do.

Kobe Bryant of the L.A. Lakers is her top jock. The UConn men's and women's basketball teams are her favorite clubs.

Liz likes to kick back at her friends' houses.

She likes casual clothes and shops for them at American Eagle.

Rhythm and blues or hip-hop top the tunes for her.

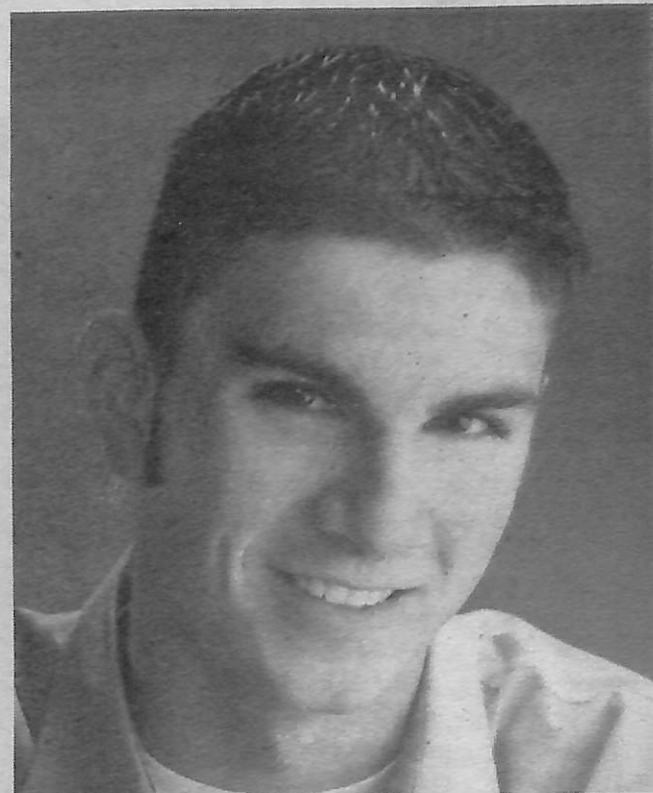
"Saturday Night Live" is tops on the tube for Liz. "A League Of Their Own" is her favorite flick.

Judy is her mom. Karl is her dad. She has a brother, Scott (25).

Her mom is the person she looks up to. "She is very strong with a great attitude. I say that because she overcame breast cancer," Liz said.

"I would like to be remembered when my days at AHS are done as a person who could bring a smile to someone's face," she noted.

New girls' basketball Coach Bronwyn Monahan had this to say of Liz: "She is a shooter who can play four positions on the floor and will give us a lift whenever she's in there."



LOU CONTE, JR.

Profile...

Insider Lou Conte, Jr. - Heart Of Boys' Hoop

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

One of the kids who will lead the Agawam High School boys' basketball team this season will be Lou Conte, Jr. Of course, he's the son of AHS Athletic Director Lou Conte, Sr., himself a former standout athlete at AHS back in the early 1970's.

Lou is 17 years-old. He'll turn 18 on August 11th. He stands 6'2" tall and weighs in at 195 pounds.

Lou has spent all four years of his secondary education at AHS. His course load this semester includes physics, integrated math, psychology, English 12, desktop publishing, practical law, and gym. Lou is a

SEE LOU CONTE, JR. - Page 47

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LOU CONTE, JR. - from Page 46

member of the Renaissance Club.

Practical law is Lou's favorite subject. "It's a tough course with so much to learn," he said.

His top teacher is Agawam varsity football Coach Tad Desautels (physical education).

Right now, Lou is looking at either Springfield College or Westfield State. He would like to major in physical education.

He plays football, basketball, and baseball. He was just named to the Division I All-Western Mass. football team. His favorite sport is football.

His best sports moment was catching a touchdown pass against West Springfield in their Thanksgiving Day battle this year.

His take on the upcoming basketball season: "We'll definitely be better this time around. We're an

improved team across the board."

Lou's favorite food is lasagna. He says Nicky's Pizzeria is the best place for it.

Orange and brown are his favorite colors.

His ride would be a 2001 Mercury Cougar.

His favorite school is Ohio State. Current New England Patriot and former Ohio State star (Butkus Award winner and All-American linebacker) Andy Katzenmoyer is his top jock.

Lou likes to relax at football teammate Frank Ferrentino's house. Lou has a girlfriend - gymnast Allison Morris, who is a sophomore.

Lou likes his clothes casual - jeans and a t-shirt. He buys them at Filene's.

He likes classical rock. The Doors is his favorite group.

"The Simpsons" is his TV show. "Braveheart" is his top flick.

Deb is his mom. Lou is his dad. He has three sisters: Amber, who is a junior basketball star at Suffolk University in Boston; Caitlyn (17), his fraternal twin; and Keeley (12).

Lou has two people whom he looks up to. One is Joe, his grandfather on his dad's side. "He's a hard worker," the kid said. He also looks up to his grandfather on his mom's side, Frank Caroleo.

When they give him his sheepskin and bid him farewell, Lou says he'd like to be remembered at AHS as a kid who was a leader and worked as hard as he could at everything he did.

His varsity basketball coach agrees. Coach Brian Alves had this to say about the senior: "Lou has a great heart. He's a leader who will go through a wall for you. He's a complete team player and very vocal in a good way. He'll let you know when you have to step it up. People tend to listen to him."

BOYS' BASKETBALL - from Page 45

"Mario is so much like his sister. He takes it to the hoop whenever he can. He's smart. He'll be a number two or three for us."

Mike Defilipe is the fourth sophomore. "This kid runs six miles every day. He is so fit that from his guard position, he'll bring the ball up and outlast everyone," Alves added.

The coach would not divulge his offensive scheme to us. "It will be a bit of a surprise," he said. One thing we do know is that it has to be some type of up-tempo deal.

On defense, they'll go with a press and zone up into a 1-3-1, 2-3, or a 2-1-2. Then it will be a man-to-man, depending on who they play.


Agawam opens up this Friday, December 15th, against visiting Sci-Tech in a 7:00 p.m. game.

* * *

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, letters, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays.

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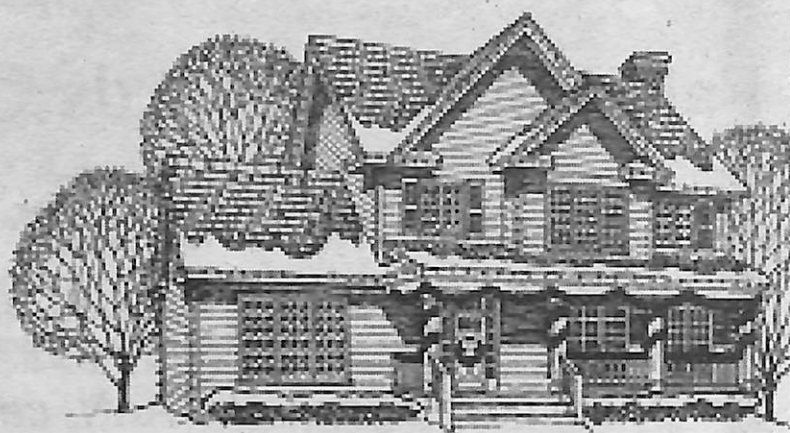
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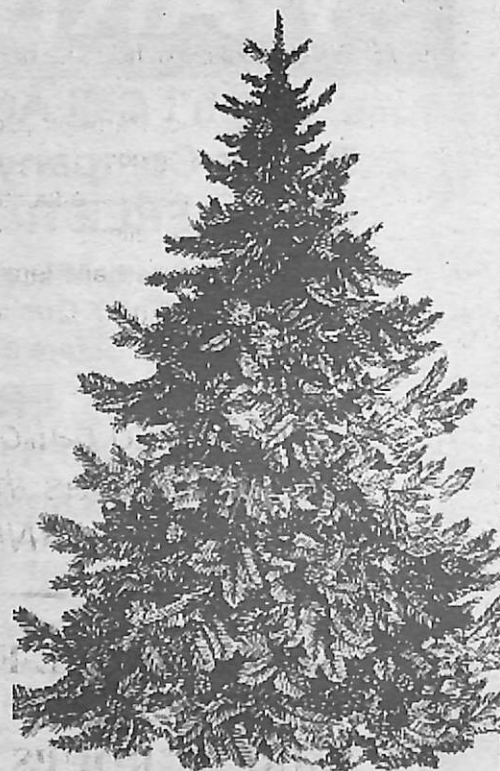


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Local Women Gymnasts Compete At Springfield College

The Women's Gymnastics Team from Daggett Gymnastics of Agawam joined 15 other New England gyms this past weekend at the annual Holiday Invitational at Springfield College. The meet, run by Thompson Gymnastics of South Hadley, utilized the college's superb facilities in order to accommodate the 340 gymnasts plus their coaches and the spectators.

The Junior Olympic competition was broken down by skill level and further by age, as set forth by USA Gymnastics. The Daggett girls placed in most categories, with stiff competition from American, MGC, Thompson's, and Pioneer.

In the Open Class, Level 10 with Elites, 16 and older, Lauren Powell of Feeding Hills led the team with a 9.30 first place on Vault, 9.10 first on Bars, 9.25 second on Floor, and third in All-Around. Jaime Scott-Smith of Southwick captured first on Beam with a 8.55 and fourth on Bars with a 8.10. In the under 14 year-old group, Jen Stack of Enfield placed a third on Floor with a 9.10. Leah Boccaccio, also of Enfield, was hurt on Vault and withdraw from the meet.

In Level 9, 15 and older, Kari Sullivan of West Springfield executed a new Floor routine for a 8.95 score. Daggett's had no Level 8's competing.

For Level 7, 13 and older girls, Joy Higley of

Suffield scored three thirds on Vault, Floor, and in the All-Around, scoring a 34.1 total. The 12 year-old group proved successful, with Catlin Ranstrom of Feeding Hills taking thirds on Vault, Bars, and Beam, as well as a first on the Floor, helping her to earn second in the All-Around with a 34.60 total. Danielle Lee from Windsor Locks took the first in the All-Around with a high 35.10 total after taking first on Bars and Floor. Christine Lee, her twin, took thirds in the same events and earned a high 34.45 total.

In the 11 year-old division, Kim Denué of East Windsor took three firsts on Bars (with a 9.0), on Beam (with a 8.90), and in the All-Around (with a 34.80).

With the 10 year-olds, Jaime Basilone of West Springfield brought home three firsts on Vault (with a 9.0), Bars (with a 8.90), and Floor (with a 8.85). These together helped her to earn second place in the All-Around with a 35.15 total.

The Level 6 Team also did well. In the 13 and over group, Alicia Malloy of Agawam took a third on Vault with a 9.05, while sister Katie captured a third on Bars and a fourth on Vault, leaving her in fifth for the All-Around.

In the 11-12 year-old division, Brittany Boella of Enfield earned a third on bars (scoring 8.10), a first on

Beam (with a 9.05), and a second in the All-Around. Diana Forbes of Agawam excelled on the Vault, taking second place.

In the 7-9 year-old group, Kristen Cadigan of East Longmeadow placed fifth on Bars and sixth on both Beam and All-Around. Brittany Laflamme also scored well on Vault, taking fourth place with a 9.05.

In Level 5, age 7-9, Kayla Leverault of Southwick scored a 9.0 and placed fourth on Beam. Angela Oddo of Windsor Locks competed with the 10 year-olds and scored two 8.70's on Bars and Beam for a third and fifth, respectively.

In the 11 year-old group, Amy Damon of Southwick scored consistently for a 32.95 fifth in the All-Around. Nicole Eastman of Windsor scored 8.30's on Vault and Floor, taking a fourth and a fifth. Erika Ellis of Westfield excelled on Vault (taking a first with a 8.65), on Beam (taking fourth with a 8.85), and on Floor (earning third with a 8.40). Ashley Watson of Enfield gained a second place in the All-Around scoring with a 34.05 total after taking a second on Vault (with a 8.55), third on Bars (with a 8.65), and fourth on Beam (scoring 8.75).

In the 12 and older group, Maurica Sweeney of Springfield took a first on Vault with a 8.60 score.

Fall Athletic Awards Given At Suf. Academy Assembly

At the Athletic Awards Assembly at Suffield Academy last month, the following students from Agawam were honored with special awards and varsity letters:

* *Girls' Cross Country* - "Varsity Letter" and "Outstanding Achievement Award": **Melissa Knight**

(captain).

* *Varsity Field Hockey* - "Varsity Letter": **Brittany Locke**.

* *Varsity Football* - "Varsity Letter" and the "Norman Fiedler Award for the Most Inspirational Player": **Brandan Orsatti** (captain).

* *Varsity Boys' Soccer* - "Varsity Letter": **Richard Gonyea**.

* *Varsity Girls' Soccer* - "Varsity Letter": **Hilary Golas**.

* *Varsity Water Polo* - "Varsity Letter": **Jeffrey Rivkin** (tri-captain).

For photo coverage in The AAN, call 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter...

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COACH KIM HEBERT (far left, back row) and ASSISTANT COACH DONNA BODURTHA (far right, back row) with the members of the Agawam High School varsity cheerleading squad.

AHS Cheerleaders Are 2000 Western Mass. Champions

The Agawam High School varsity cheerleading squad won the Western Mass. Division I Title at Franklin High School on Sunday, November 19th. This is the first time the Brownies have ever been crowned Western Mass. champs. They were the State Champs in 1999.

In addition to that accomplishment, the Brownies' performance merited a score exceeding the 240-point requirement, qualifying them to participate in the UCA National Cheerleading Championships held in February 2001 in Orlando.

The members of the squad are Jenna Bodurtha, Bianca Chase, Lauren DeLuca, Heather Ferguson, Jessica Forni, Rachel Lara, Ashlee Lorraine, Stephanie Pettazzoni, Aimee Piccin, Anne Shibley, Kim Chmura, Stacy Hopkins, Amanda Lemieux, Stephanie Sadowski, Kari Trauschke, Casey VonOssenbruggen, Christin Cilimberg, Linda Kelly, Jillian Nunziato, and Julie Pontz.

Their accomplishment did not come without hard work. They have been practicing since August, four days a week, with additional time spent on gymnastics and strength training. In order for a cheerleading squad to compete on an elite level, they must have several elements in their routine which involve a high level of athleticism. They need to exhibit team gymnastics, dance, acrobatic skills, synchronization, and an enthusiasm for cheering.

Under the leadership of Coach Kim Hebert, the squad has turned their attention and efforts toward fine-tuning their routine to prepare for the national competition. They are determined to be the best they can be and are working diligently towards this goal.

Several fundraisers have been scheduled to help defray the girls' travel costs to Florida. A pasta supper at the Italian Sporting Club will be served on January 7, 2001 between 4:00-7:00 p.m. (adults, \$5; children, \$3) and a bus trip to Foxwoods on January 13, 2001

(\$20 per ticket with a \$10 Keno rebate) are planned for next month.

You may contact Irene Lemieux or Linda Piccin for additional information about these fundraisers. Pasta tickets may be purchased from any of the cheerleaders.

Anyone interested in making a contribution to the cheerleaders, please send it to Diane DeLuca, c/o

AHS Cheerleader Support Group, 78 Nicole Terrace, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

The Agawam girls would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the Agawam community, businesses, and residents who have always been supportive of the team. They would also like to congratulate the Agawam gymnastics team, who also won their Western Mass. title.

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Tri-Parish Bowling League...

St. Louis And St. Mary Are Neck-And-Neck In Round Two

On Monday, December 4th, St. Louis managed to maintain its lead by rolling over Georgetown, 4-0. Bowling well for G't, Vi "Speedy" Massoia ran a nice 310 (which included a 117 second string). "Mighty" Debbie Poirier did a good job with a 337, but it seemed diminished because St. L anchor Glen "Not Sam" Adams hit a mighty 388 with strings of 129, 123, and 136. "Not Sam" got help from a 321 series by Jim "Jimbo" Lambert. So, halfway through round two, it's a two-team race.

St. Mary continued to occupy second place and didn't lose any ground by beating Notre Dame, 4-0. Paula "Wild Thing" Burke wasn't up to her usual performance, and even with the help of Frank "Buck" Cerpovicz (a nice 339 effort), she couldn't keep up with Rich "Golden" Snyder. "Wild Thing" ran a 304, and "Golden" ended up with a 363 to cement the match.

Adding to the shut-out were Terry "Tiger" Cerpovicz (308) and Don "Reb" Stitt (310). Notre Dame made the third string interesting by only losing by three pins; even the first string was close (only an eight-pin difference).

Boston College did in Fordham, 3-1, on lanes one and two. (Need we say more?) Only two bowlers were able to hit over 300, and out of 24 games there were only six over 100. "Jolly" Oly Muldrew had a 319 to

lead the losers, and Jon "Money" Robarge hit a 312 for the winners. Everybody else struggled.

Flo "Rocky" Rochford and Betsy "Not So Loaded" Cannon tied at 294 in a good match-up. Well, neither team is in a hurry to get back on these alleys.

Catholic University won over Holy Cross, 3-1. HC only got one bowler over 300. Sub anchor Jim "Big Dawg" Burlingham ran off a 131 third string to end up with a 325 night.

CU got good bowling from Cori "Lefty" Napolitan, who hit a 305. Absent anchor person Kathy "Big Cat" Burlingham's average (less five) was enough to carry the team and win pinfall by 41 pins.

The Christmas season must have had some effect on everyone, and there are still two more bowling nights before the "big day." So, onward we go, one day at a time!

The standings as of December 4th were:

St. Louis	15 - 5
St. Mary	15 - 5
Notre Dame	10 - 10
Boston College	9 - 11
Georgetown	9 - 11
Catholic University (round winner)	9 - 11
Fordham	7 - 13
Holy Cross	6 - 14

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, letters, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter ... AAN!!!

"Ski & Snowboard Savings Book" Has Great Values

The American Lung Association of Western Massachusetts, Freeride Snowsports, and nine ski resorts are offering downhill skiers free lift tickets and other major ski discounts during the 2000-2001 ski season. The **Ski & Snowboard Savings Book** will offer skiers free and discounted skiing at nine resorts from the Berkshires to Central Massachusetts. Discounts are also available on ski tune-ups and merchandise at area ski shops. The Book's "Winter Products Sponsor" is Rossignol.

For **\$49.95**, the holder of the Ski & Snowboard Savings Book can ski free or at a discount once, or at many of the resorts multiple times during the ski season. The Book includes free lift tickets, buy-one-get-one-free deals, and other discounts on ski passes and merchandise. As an added bonus, purchasers of the Ski & Snowboard Savings Book will be entered into a drawing to win a ski or snowboard package worth \$500 from Rossignol. The drawing for the package will be held on February 15, 2001.

More information on the Ski & Snowboard Savings Book, plus discounts on merchandise and tune-ups, are available at Clark's Sport Shop, Greenfield; Western Village, Northampton; The Bicycle Barn, Northfield; The Ski-In, Agawam/Wilbraham; Kenver LTD, South Egremont; Ski-Haus, East Longmeadow; Plaine's Bike & Ski, Pittsfield; and Competitive Edge Ski and Bike, East Longmeadow/Hadley/Holyoke.

To order the **Ski & Snowboard Savings Book**, or for more information, please call the American Lung Association at (413) 737-3506 or 800-LUNG-USA.



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Baseball Season May Be Over, But The Spirit Of Giving Is In Full Swing



AGAWAM RESIDENT PETER CLARK (second from the left), the varsity baseball coach at Agawam High School, presents a \$120,631 check on the field at Fenway Park, to the Jimmy Fund to support efforts to find a cure for cancer. This check represents proceeds from a Jiffy Lube summer promotion. Over the past four years, Jiffy Lube has contributed over \$750,000 to the Jimmy Fund. Photographed from left to right: Matt Marquez of Jiffy Lube International; Peter Clark, President of Bowman Clark Inc. and Jiffy Lube Franchisee; Greg Bassett, Vice President of Jiffy Lube International; Mike Andrews, Chairman of the Jimmy Fund and former Second Baseman for the Boston Red Sox; and Jaimie Osgood and Patrick White, both of whom are patients at the Jimmy Fund Clinic in Boston.

American Lung Assoc. Offers Golf Privilege Card

The American Lung Association of Western Massachusetts (ALAWM) Golf Privilege Card (GPC) is now available for purchase. The GPC makes a great gift for the golfer on your holiday list.

The GPC offers free or discounted golf, lessons, range buckets, and pro-shop items at over 80 venues in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In addition, five Florida golf resorts are offering discount packages, which can include golf, dining, lodging, and many other amenities.

Sponsored by 22News and AAA Auto Club of Pioneer Valley, the GPC directly benefits Western Massachusetts residents. The ALAWM provides all four counties of Western Massachusetts with a variety of services that underscore the Lung Association's goal of clean air and healthy lungs.

Children with asthma can learn about their condition and how best to control it by attending Camp Chest Nut in Becket. Adults with chronic lung disease learn to manage their condition and receive professional support by attending Better Breathers support group. Teachers, students, and helping professionals all rely on the ALAWM for a variety of videos, brochures, pamphlets, and teaching tools on all aspects of lung health.

Details of the GPC are available by calling the Springfield Lung Association office at 413-737-3506 or 1-800-LUNG-USA. Or, stop in at the office, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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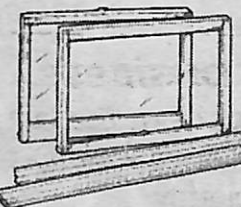
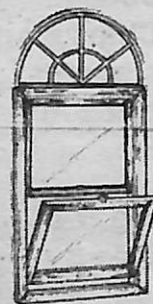
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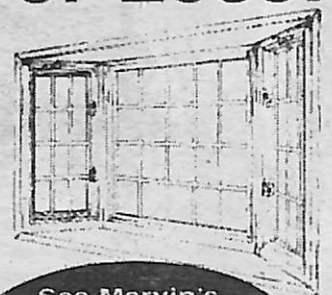


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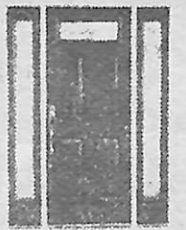
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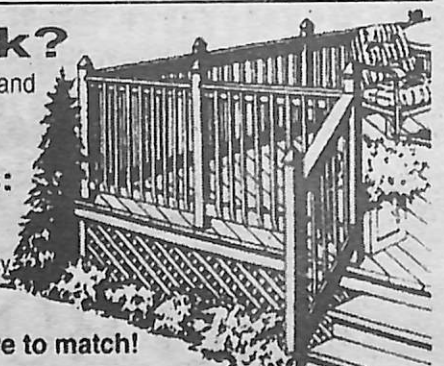
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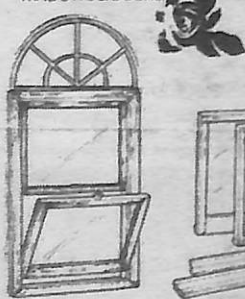
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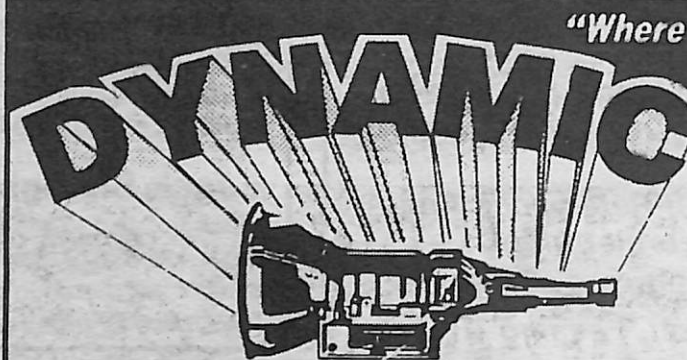
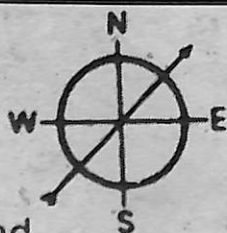
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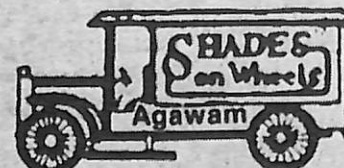


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Errands & Odd Jobs Are Us - Large & small repairs, yard work, clean gutters & windows, moving, trash removal, housecleaning, grocery & gift shopping/wrapping, ironing. If a traditional husband or wife does it - **SO DO WE!** Fully insured, gift certificates, MC/Visa accepted. **789-7911.**

SPRINGFIELD TURN-

VEREIN: Catering to weddings, banquets, parties, and receptions. Two rooms available with seating up to 250 people. 176 Garden Street, Feeding Hills, **786-0924.**

EXCELLENT CARPENTRY: Small jobs to custom homes. Honest work at today's prices. Free estimates; senior citizen discounts. Stephen Gould, **786-6887.**

SHADES ON WHEELS: Your complete custom window treatment specialist, all at discount prices. Free estimates and installation - satisfaction guaranteed. **(413) 786-9411.**

EXTERIOR-INTERIOR PAINTING: Old and new construction. Power washing. Mural painting. Affordable, reliable, complete prep. Good references. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Seven Colors at **(413) 568-2195.**

3 J REMOVAL: Attics, basements, garages, and more. Complete removal service. Free est. Lowest rates. **783-6103.**

BOB LONGO CONSTRUCTION: 27 years specializing in kitchens and additions. Free custom design. Fully

insured, free estimates. In Agawam, **789-0758.**

CHARTIER'S GENERAL CARPENTRY: We take the worry out of building. Additions; new construction; renovations; custom decks. Lic. no. 051681; fully insured. Don Chartier, owner. **(413) 789-7011.**

DAYCARE: I am a professional family daycare provider licensed (186383) by the Massachusetts Office for Children. I'm located off River Road in Agawam. For more information, call Maggie at Pooh's Corner, **786-8806.**

HANDY MAN: Need a handy man around the house? All types of home improvements & odd jobs. Bob Bartolucci, **(413) 736-3730.** Reg. No. 127813.

CIRILLO'S LANDSCAPING: Specializing in commercial and residential lawn care. Free estimates. Call now for fall cleaning, **786-7843.**

GILL HALL FALL CLEANING/SNOW-PLOWING: Aeration; free est.; residential & commercial accounts accepted. Call Hall Lawn Care, **789-1712.**

CURLEY'S LAWN SERVICE: Fully Insured, experienced. **Seasonal Mowing, Tree Pruning, Seeding & Sod, Lawn Installation, Bushes trimmed, Bobcat work, Landscape design & installation. Loam, Fill & Plants. 786-4622.**

HATE HOUSEWORK? NO TIME? I'LL DO IT!!! Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly. Competitive rates. References. Call Gail's Cleaning Service, **786-8314.**

THE CHAREST CO. INC.: We have all the answers for all your home improvement needs. Replacement window specialists. Over 30 years in business. License number CSO16915; reg. number 116652. **(413) 786-8666.**

DISC JOCKEY SERVICE: Providing the very best in entertainment and sound. Music Box Productions - DJ Tom Melbourne (certified professional). **(413) 789-6788.**

END OF HUNT FARMS LEARN TO RIDE JUMP SHOW! Personalized instruction. Age 3 to advanced levels. Dressage - Jumping - Boarding - Training. Show/Pleasure Horses/Pony Sales. Call Trudy Wissel. **(860) 668-1656 (H); 860-668-9990**

(B). LUCIA LUMBER COMPANY: Residential & commercial building materials specialists. Decks for everybody. Free local delivery. 777 Silver Street, Agawam. Call **413-786-1636.**

READY * SET * GROW! CHILD CARE: Certified teacher and experienced child care provider has openings for all ages. Large back yard. Nutritious meals/snacks and pre-school program included. Enrollment incentives. Vouchers and grant money available. Lic. #184792. Call Sue at **789-2530.**

CHIRGWIN COMPUTER REPAIR: Repairs, installation, upgrades. 10% senior citizen discount. Training, house calls. Call Gary W. Chirgwin, Sr., **(413) 786-0788.**

W & I CONSTRUCTION, INC.: Septic systems; backhoe & Bobcat work; plowing; sand & salt applications. Fully insured, free estimates. Phone **(413) 786-7377;** fax **(413) 786-7953.**

SPRAYTEX CEILINGS A SPECIALTY: Wall/ceiling repairs; wallpapering, stripping, painting (large or small). Insured, quality; serving you since '82. Steven G. Erickson, **413-539-8660** (cell phone).

BOUCHARD HOME IMPROVEMENT: Specialist in kitchens & baths. Fully insured, free estimates. Reg. #132952. Cell: **348-5579;** phone no.: **734-9105.**

PERSONALIZED COMPUTER SOLUTIONS: Personalized 1 on 1 consulting to suit your personal computing needs in the comfort of your home. Hardware repairs; program install/uninstall; system maintenance; system sales and/or setup; maintenance training; troubleshooting; upgrades. Ken Athas, **531-4744** or **786-3319.** E-mail - **solutions-bypcs@yahoo.com.**

THE SNOW DAY SITTER: Will sit for your 7 year-old-plus children. Must bring their own lunch. Snacks/crafts provided. B.A. psychology, CPR, first aid. For interview, **789-3577** (leave message).

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR FAMILIES & SMALL GROUPS: Any doctor, any hospital, any time! Call today for free information! Joseph Mazza, area manager, toll-free: **1-(866)-285-0830.**

SNOW PLOWING: Driveways starting at \$15.00. Call after 5:00 p.m. or leave message, **594-2566.** Ask for Don.

THE STRAIN FAMILY EQUESTRIAN CENTER: Boarding, lessons, training, sales. Ponies for parties. Riding gift certificates make great stocking stuffers! 18 Vining Hill Road, Southwick, MA (located behind Big Y/Ames Plaza). **(413) 569-5797.**

ACCENT INSPECTIONS: Total inspections - home and building. Know before you buy; know before you list. Certified to all national standards. MA, **(413) 567-8873;** CT, **(860) 668-4117.**

FOR SALE XMAS TREES \$20-\$30: You pick and cut - Saturdays & Sundays thru 12/17/00. At 10 Samuel Street. From Route 75 (near 57 overpass), take Anthony St., then 1st left onto Samuel; at end of Samuel, continue straight. Driveway is 1,200 feet to the house.

FOR SALE

WANTED
CHILD CARE TEACHER: F/T Preschool Teacher for Feeding Hills child care center. Competitive wages and benefits. Call Julie at The Kids' Place, **786-7980.** EOE.

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD: Interested candidates are asked to apply at the Agawam Public Schools, ATTN: Mr. Donald J. Charest, Deputy Superintendent, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030, no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19, 2000. E.O.E.

SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS AND CAFETERIA MONITORS: Interested candidates are asked to apply at the Agawam Public Schools, ATTN: Mr. Donald J. Charest, Deputy Superintendent, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030, no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19, 2000. E.O.E.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK? WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU: The Feeding Hills Congregational Church is looking for a new administrative assistant. The current schedule of three mornings a week is somewhat flexible. In addition to receptionist duties, the work includes publishing a monthly newsletter as well as weekly worship bulletins, keeping the church calendar up-to-date, and assisting the pastor as necessary. The applicant should be skillful with a computer. Please call Bob Marsh at **786-3143** evenings after 6:00 p.m.

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FOR SALE: Self-propelled chipper/shredder vacuum. Made by White. 5.5 h.p.; 1 yr.-old. Asking \$450. **(413) 736-8669.**

NEW & USED OFFICE FURNITURE: Everything is fully assembled. Gift certificates available. Thorpe's, 1408 Main St., Agawam, **786-8080.**

FOR RENT: CLOSED REDEMPTION CENTER FOR RENT: Located next to DeCaro Brothers Garden Center (1236 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills). Call **786-0370.**

PERSONAL THANK YOU ST. JUDE: For prayers answered. Publication promised. J.G.

WANTED
HELP WANTED: Experienced snowplow driver for residential accounts. Must know Agawam, Longmeadow, W. Spfld. area. On call 24-7. \$25.00/hr. Call **821-0822.**

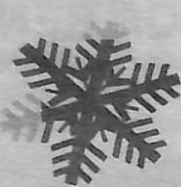
If you visit the Advertiser News' new office at 23 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills (above Remillard Insurance), please note that our main entrance is in the back. Please park on the side of the building and use the back entrance. Thank you...



Bertelli's Liquors

726 MAIN STREET, WEST SPRINGFIELD - 732-3267

OPEN SUNDAYS 12-6:00 pm., CHRISTMAS EVE AND NEW YEAR'S EVE 12:00 to 9:00 P.M.

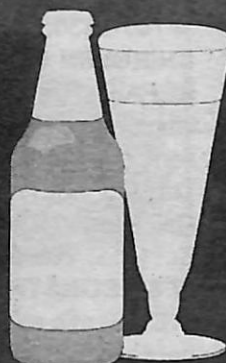


Holiday Specials!



30 Packs

▼ Bud & Bud Light.....	\$16.49
▼ Coors & Coors Light.....	\$16.49
▼ Coors Extra Gold	\$11.49
▼ Miller Light.....	\$16.49
▼ Bud Dry	\$12.49
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Imported Beers

◆ Heineken (24 Bottles)	\$18.79
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◆ St. Pauli Girl (24 Bottles)	\$18.79
◆ Labatts (24 Bottles)	\$16.79
◆ Molson Ice & Molson Golden....	\$16.79
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Everyday
LOW
Prices!

All Riunite
(1.5 liter) **\$5.99**

Bolla Merlot & Pino Grigio
(1.5 liter) **\$9.99**

Everyday
LOW
Prices!

Carlo Rossi
(4-liter) **\$6.99**

**KEGS
IN
STOCK**

~1.75 liters ~

Dewars Scotch	\$28.99
Crown Royal	\$33.99
J & B Scotch	\$28.99
Canadian Club	\$17.99
Seagrams 7	\$14.99
Smirnoff Vodka	\$16.99
Absolut Vodka	\$23.99
Popov Vodka	\$12.99
Rubioff Vodka	\$8.99
Inverhouse Scotch	\$12.99
Canadian Mist	\$13.99
Seagrams Gin	\$13.99
Bacardi Rum	\$15.99
Bacardi Limon	\$19.99
Jack Daniels	\$25.99
Johnnie Walker Red	\$30.99



FULL
MASS
LOTTERY
SERVICE

DOMESTIC BEER

▲ MICHELOB & MICHELOB LITE (18pack)	\$10.59
▲ GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY (24 cans)	\$8.79
▲ BUSH EXPORT (bottles)	\$10.49
▲ MIESTER BRAU & LITE	\$9.79
▲ NATURAL LITE ICE (24 cans)	\$9.79

CORDIALS

Kahlua (750 ml)	\$14.99
Sambuca Romano (750 ml)	\$14.99
Leroux Brandies (750 ml)	\$7.99
Boston Brandies (750 ml)	\$7.99
Old Fashion New England Egg Nog (1-liter)	\$5.99
Chambord (750 ml)	\$19.99
Grand Marnier	\$27.99

~WINES~

GALLO

(750)

White Zinfandel

3 for \$7.99

VENDANGE

(750)

White Zinfandel

3 for \$7.99

BLOOSOM

HILL (1.5)

White Zinfandel

\$4.99

Alisa (Italy)

Pino Grigio (1.5) \$7.99

Merlot (1.5) \$7.99

All Delcato (1.5) \$7.99

Berringer (750) White Zinfandel -- 2 for \$7.99

CHAMPAGNE & SPARKLING WINES

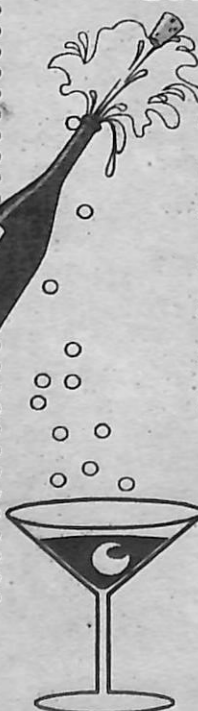
* Andre (All Flavors) 750 ml	\$2.99
* Ballatore Grand Spumante 750 ml	\$4.99
* Martini & Rossi Asti Spumante 750 ml (Boxed with Chocolates) ...	\$8.99
* Korbel- Brut & Extra Dry 750 ml	\$9.99
* Moet White Star 750 ml	\$25.99
* Dom Perignon 750 ml	\$99.99
* Martini & Rossi Spumante Magnum 1.5 liter	\$17.99

~FLAVORED WINES~

* Arbor Mist (All Flavors) 750 ml	3 for \$9.99
* Arbor Mist (All Flavors) 1.5 liter	\$5.99
* Wild Vines (All Flavors) 750 ml	3 for \$9.99
* Wild Vines (All Flavors) 1.5 liter	\$5.99

COKE, SPRITE & DIET COKE

(Cans) **\$5.99** +Dep.



ALL BEER PRICES SUBJECT TO MASS DEPOSIT - ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED